



HAND OF PROFESSOR SIR ARTHUR KEITH,
M.D., F.R.C.S., LL.D.

SCIENTIFIC PALMISTRY

BY
NOEL JAQUIN

WITH A PREFACE BY
MAJOR EDWARD FERRIS, M.A. OXON

AND DIAGRAMS BY
NORMAN W. GRIGG

Illustrated with reproductions of the hands of

PROFESSOR SIR ARTHUR KEITH, F.R.C.S. ETC.

SIR OLIVER LODGE ; SIR JOHN LAVERY, R.A.

MAJOR SIR WILLIAM ORPEN, R.A. ; MISS SYBIL THORNDIKE

MAJOR EDWARD FERRIS, M.A. OXON ; MR. H. DENNIS BRADLEY

MADAME GALLI-CURCI

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PREFACE

IT has been rightly said that we live in an age of discoveries.

In this volume the author treats of a subject which has generally been regarded as a farrago of nonsense, owing to the way in which it has been exploited by unscrupulous cheiromancers, but after careful perusal of this work every thoughtful reader will be brought face to face with facts, which to say the least of it, are indubitable.

When one reflects that hereditary tendencies and diseases, which are obscure in their

PREFACE

origin, are indicated through the medium of Scientific Palmistry, then we must acknowledge that the life-work of Mr. Noel Jaquin, far from being in vain, has placed in the hands of humanity at large yet another weapon with which to combat the moral and physical difficulties of life, for in the revelation of the weakness lies the key to the prevention of development.

Mr. Jaquin has already proved the value of this science as an aid to the diagnosis of disease and psycho-analysis, but of the future he does not pretend to tell, unless it be related to either character or health.

The curtain, which has defied the efforts of those countless thousands who have attempted to tear it aside, still remains, and the future stretches before us shrouded in illimitable darkness.

PREFACE

So we must be content now to “know in part,” until “the day dawns and the shadows flee away,” when “we shall know, even as now we are known.”

EDWARD FERRIS, M.A. (Oxon).

CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
	INTRODUCTION . . .	15
I.	MODUS OPERANDI . . .	23
II.	THE TAKING OF IMPRINTS	29
III.	THE FINGERS AND NAILS .	33
IV.	THE THUMB	37
V.	THE MOUNTS OF THE HAND.	41
VI.	THE LINES OF THE HAND .	47
	THE LINE OF LIFE . . .	48
	THE HEAD LINE . . .	50
VII.	THE LINE OF HEART OR CARDIAC LINE . . .	61
VIII.	THE MINOR LINES OF THE HAND	71
IX.	THE GIRDLE OF VENUS .	77
	THE LINE OF APOLLO .	81

CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
X.	THE LINE OF FATE . . .	87
XI.	THE LINE OF INTUITION .	97
	THE <i>VIA LASCIVA</i> . . .	100
	THE RING OF SATURN .	104
XII.	CORROBORATIVE MARKINGS FOUND IN THE HUMAN HAND . . .	105
XIII.	THE LINE OF MARRIAGE .	117
	CHILDREN . . .	122
XIV.	VARIOUS OBSERVATIONS RE- LATING TO CHARACTER	127
XV.	TIME ON THE HAND .	139
XVI.	A SYSTEM OF PALMISTIC DIAGNOSIS . . .	145
XVII.	THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND THE HAND . .	153
XVIII.	THE LINE OF HEALTH .	163
XIX.	ANÆMIA . . .	169
	GENERAL WEAKNESS . .	172
XX.	CONSUMPTION . . .	177
	BRONCHITIS . . .	182

CONTENTS

CHAPTER		PAGE
XXI.	THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM AND THE HAND . . .	187
XXII.	EPILEPSY AND INSANITY .	191
XXIII.	DISEASES INDICATED BY THE CARDIAC LINE . . .	205
XXIV.	MINOR OBSERVATIONS .	209
XXV.	CONCLUSION . . .	217

ILLUSTRATIONS

Hand of Professor Sir Arthur Keith, M.D., F.R.C.S., LL.D.	<i>Frontispiece</i>
	PAGE
Hand of Sir Oliver Lodge, F.S.S., D.Sc.	16
Hand of Major Edward Ferris, M.A. (Oxon.)	32
Diagram I	49
Hand of Major Sir William Orpen, R.A.	64
Diagram II	67
Hand of Sir John Lavery, R.A.	80
Diagram III	101
Hand of Miss Sybil Thorndike	112
Diagram IV	115

ILLUSTRATIONS

	PAGE
Diagram V	141
Hand of Mr. H. Dennis Bradley .	144
Diagram VI	173
Diagram VII	193
Hand of Madame Galli-Curci .	216

SCIENTIFIC PALMISTRY

INTRODUCTION

THE HAND OF MAN

“LET us ever remember that nothing befalls us that is not of the nature of ourselves. If Judas go forth to-night it is towards Judas his steps will tend ; let Socrates open his door and he shall find Socrates asleep on the threshold before him.” So writes Maeterlinck the sage, and if this be true, then our fortune, our star, is within; it is ourselves. Events flow into the mould of our character, which has been either inherited or developed, and for the result, especially if contrary to

our expectations, we blame Destiny. To pursue this idea further would be to cheat any purpose ; this is a subject for separate consideration. The point that I would emphasize is that the fundamental foundation of either success or failure is to be found in the combination of health and character. How often lack of confidence in one's ability, presuming that one has ability, renders effort weak and feeble, and there is lacking just that touch of hidden strength necessary to arrest attention and attract success.

To the vast majority the word palmistry conveys a suggestion of some subtle form of fraud ; to others the idea of a harmless but superstitious pastime, the amusement of neurotic women and a subject unworthy of serious consideration. It would be well to bear in mind that many things which fifty years ago would have been laughed at as impossible are to-day the playthings of our children.

Originating in the East, this ancient science has made a journey of centuries to the West. Time and ignorance have endowed it with a formidable accumulation of superstitious fancies which unfortunately became accepted as facts. The discovery of these was undoubtedly the means of branding the whole as a fraud. This was not just ; having eliminated the superstitious fancies there are left certain fundamental facts that are indisputably true. It is upon this foundation that palmistry, as we know it, rests. This aspect of the science is very different from the superstitious practice of the earlier ages. To-day it is possible, by a scientific survey of the hand, to effect a dissection of both the psychological and the physical being : to carefully analyse character, weighing one trait against another and so to determine which are the strong and which the weak compounded in the make-up of personality. In the case of children the ability to do this is doubly valuable. Latent

mental powers can be discovered and cultivated ; on the other hand, unsavoury traits or tendencies can be detected, which, by proper training, can be entirely eliminated.

Where health is concerned, a consultation of the hand is of value in detecting inherited disease or predispositions to disease and a correct estimation of their power is attainable. Where there exists actual active disease then can the menace to life be very accurately gauged.

An example of the truth of this statement is brought to my mind in the case of a lady, the imprint of whose hands were recently sent to me. The fact was known to me at the time that her medical adviser had diagnosed indigestion and asthma in a chronic form. An examination of these imprints revealed serious heart trouble with grave danger of death occurring. I advised an immediate consultation with a specialist if life was not to end suddenly within a short time. Unfortunately my advice was disregarded ;

the subject died suddenly within three months of that reading. The post-mortem examination revealed acute heart disease. I do not believe, in this case, a cure could have been effected, but I am convinced that a proper medical authority could have prolonged life by five, six, perhaps ten years.

It has been suggested to me on more than one occasion, as in all probability it will be suggested to you, that the successful practice of palmistry depends to a great extent upon the clairvoyance of the palmist. This is not so, though there are undoubtedly a number of people who in practice make use of any clairvoyant power they may possess ; but such a practice is, in my opinion, neither exact nor scientific, for it would depend to a great extent for the accuracy of the delineation upon the mood and health of the palmist. The hand and its markings should be read as a chart, subject to certain hard-and-fast rules. It is, of course, a matter of

experience and practice alone that enables one to analyse and estimate the strengths of the varying traits dominant in the character before finally stating which are to be cultivated and which are to be repressed.

It has been stated that the simple things of life often prove to be the most complex ; this is very true of the human hand. In the study of disease the indications shown in the hand are very often minute : they may only be small spots or dots in the ridges of the skin itself, but they are nevertheless of the utmost importance.

In concluding this introduction I would emphasise the fact that the science of palmistry is not to be learned in a few days. By practical application and observation alone will you be able to become proficient. After all, there exists no greater mystery, no more fascinating problem than the personality of man—and the science of palmistry, revealing as it does the soul, with its good and evil qualities warring for mastery—will ~~never~~ ^{never} over

prove a source of intelligent and pleasurable study. Difficult though it at first may appear, the value of this science to humanity will be as a spur to fresh discoveries and a closer application to study.

CHAPTER I

MODUS OPERANDI

THIS is information that is generally left until the main facts of the science have been assimilated, but I have seen so many despair of ever being able to “read” a hand through the faults that everyone makes when studying the lines of the human hand, and it is most important that these faults of procedure be pointed out so that they may be avoided. A fatal mistake so often made by students is to read the lines and mounts independently, just as they strike the eye. A supple or back-bending thumb, for instance, denotes impulse ; whereas the Head line on the palmer surface may indicate determination ; or again, the thumb may denote determination,

but the lines of Head and Life may at their beginnings be "open"; this open formation denotes rashness—a person given to hasty action. It must always be remembered that palmistry is an analytical science.

It is most important that you work on certain set lines. A general survey of the hand is, of course, necessary as a preliminary preparation for the delineation. In my opinion the best method of procedure is this: first glance at the back of the hand noting the shape and length of the fingers, then the shape and colouration of the nails. Turn next to the palmer surface, using the thumb and junction of the lines of Life and Head as your compass, proceed to read round the mounts. Then consider the line of Head in relation to mentality, passing on to the Heart line for an estimation of affection. Lastly consider the Fate line for the events and influences that have played their part in the moulding of character. Finally, carefully examine the hands for the reading

and estimation of health, having noted various indications bearing on health whilst delineating the character, turn to the line of Health, using the line of Life as an index and a guide ; proceed with your reading.

The fineness or coarseness of the general lines of the hand serve as an indication of the strength of the subject ; in the case of a hand covered with a mass of very fine, thin lines the subject would possess more nervous vitality than actual physical strength, and in case of thick lines more physical strength than nervous force is indicated. Should the lines be deep, firm and clearly marked, then the nature is emotional. These points about the lines will assist you in both the reading of character and in the estimation of health.

Remember that a hasty statement is always unwise : be sure of your facts before you speak ; it is perhaps even more important that you be careful of the manner in which you make your statements when dealing

with the question of a person's health. A tendency to any certain form of ill-health if declared to exist in a direct and brusque manner would create, in certain types, a mental condition that would accentuate that predisposition and materially aid the actual development of disease. A highly-strung nervous system, coupled with an imaginative mentality, is very prone by subconscious concentration of thought to counterfeit unconsciously the symptoms of disease, the appearance of which serve only to reinforce the imagination to such an extent that from a weakness or predisposition actual disease may easily develop. The facts that you may see written in the hand can, however, be mentioned in a diplomatic way, and the subject can be warned of danger, if danger exist, and so by taking precautions avoid the consequences of its development. With regard to the Future, it is very difficult to state with what degree of correctness, with what clarity it is possible to discern the

shadows of coming events by an examination of the hand. Should the Future be related to either character or health then it is plainly marked for all who care to read. Some unhealthy mental trait for instance may be marked, which the right hand shows as developing, then there must be a time when that trait becomes closely allied to disease, overwhelming the life of the subject.

To a great extent the ability to foretell events depends upon the type of hand under examination. In the case of an impulsive hand, the logical reasoning of the subconscious mind is at the mercy of a number of unknown factors and influences, the effect of which it is unable to estimate ; some determination of the subject, which in the normal course of things should lead to certain results, is in the impulsive subject often rendered abortive by the trifling interference of some impulse that in the case of a subject possessing normal determination

would not be sufficiently strong to alter the preconceived determination.

Above all, the science of palmistry is logical and reasonable ; it does not rest upon blind chance nor superstitious fancies : there is always, or should be, a reason for every statement that you make. In the contemplation of health you will often find that the fundamental cause of ill-health lies in some trait of the character. Should you find that your delineation is not logical, do not blame palmistry for its incompleteness, rather search your mind for the defect in the assimilation of the technical facts.

Lastly I would warn you to take no heed of the preconceived impression that a person may make upon you when you first see them ; you are concerned with the hand and the hand alone ; this will tell you more, and more truly, than any passing impression or mannerism can of the personality that sits before you.

CHAPTER II

THE TAKING OF IMPRINTS

THE best method of making your studies both interesting and instructive is to make a comparative study of the hands you read ; for this purpose you must of course keep some sort of copy or record of the hands that you read. Photographs are costly and troublesome, but there are various methods of making imprints that are easy and practically costless. One of these is by means of ordinary printer's ink : the ink is rolled out on a sheet of glass and the hand pressed firmly upon the inked surface and then upon the paper. The disadvantage of this method is that the lines appear white ; minute data is missing, so that for the purpose of exact

study it is not to be recommended, apart from the trouble of cleaning the hands afterwards. The best and cleanest way and one involving the least trouble, yet giving the maximum amount of detail, is by means of ordinary smoked paper. Select a paper of fair substance, smoke this carefully over an ordinary candle flame until you have an even deposit of carbon particles. It is important that the deposit of black is not too thick—the hand naturally spreading slightly if the carbon is thick—your impression will appear blurred, the ridges of the skin will not be clear and well defined, and this is a point that is very important when dealing with health. The paper may be either white or azure. Having prepared your materials thus far, make a pad by folding a duster or silk scarf ; should the palmer surface of the hand be hollow this will allow the outer edges of the hand to sink down so that you get a clear impression of the hollow palm. Press the hand firmly on the black-

ened surface and lift sharply to prevent smudging. Having obtained the clear imprint it is now necessary to "fix" it in some way so that it may be stored or filed for reference. This is easily done by making a mixture of spirit gum and methylated spirit—one teaspoonful of the gum added to two ounces of methylated. Pour a little of this on the corner of the paper and then let it gently run down over the imprint; or better still, spray the mixture on the corner either by means of a "wash bottle" or an old scent spray. You must not spray the preservative directly on to the print or you will find that the carbonized surface becomes spotted, and for all practical purposes, ruined.

Although the imprint gives greater detail and enables you to give a better delineation it has one disadvantage. The shape and colouration of the finger nails is not shown; therefore, at the time of taking the impression, make a pencilled note of the following points: the shape of the nails and their

colour, the colour of the lines on the palmer surface, also if the thumb be straight or supple, that is bending back away from the hand.

Those of you who intend making palmistry a serious study would be wise in taking the imprints of your friends' hands as soon as you can ; by the knowledge you have of their characters, and following carefully the fundamental facts given in the rest of this book, you will be assisted in the assimilation of the technique, and its practical application will develop the method of arriving at a logical conclusion.

CHAPTER IV

THE THUMB

THE student of human personality must be able, at a glance, to classify the thumb of the hand under consideration : the thumb is to the palmist what the North Star is to the mariner. These types are easy to remember, being only two—the straight and the supple or backward-bending thumb. The straight type indicates the more reliable of the two, denoting firmness and determination.

The second type, the supple, is an indicator of impulse, such people as possess this backward-bending phalange are more versatile both morally and mentally. They

lack the determination of the straight-thumbed people, they live more for the present. The length of this digit is an indication of the intelligence of the possessor. A long, slightly-waisted thumb shows refinement and intellectual strength. On the other hand the short, thick thumb is inclining to the stubborn and the animal.

Will-power is indicated in the top or nail phalange and dependent upon the length of this joint is the amount of will-power, or a better description—determination, possessed by the subject. When this joint is short and thick you find a disposition that is stubborn and brutal ; especially is this the case when the second phalange is also thick, this being the phalange indicating logic and thought by its waisted appearance. So, when reason is undeveloped, you find that determination becomes blind stubbornness, unchecked by any thoughtful consideration beyond personal desire or opinion. Waisted

fingers indicate thought, but in the case of the thumb this waisted formation is magnified by the importance of the digit into an indication of thought above that of the fingers. The thumb of an intellectual man is long and well-shaped ; that of the ape is short, straight and thick. The second phalange of the ape thumb is practically indiscernible, the whole digit lying close to the hand showing a lack of independent thought and reasoning.

When making a delineation of character you must always consider the thumb in relation with the head line ; between the indications shown by both of these you will be surprised with what accuracy and ease it is possible to gauge mentality and determination. The one type of thumb that is blind in its unreasonable adherence to an opinion, purpose, or desire, is the "clubbed." This is where the top joint is unusually thick, swelling out on the inside to a thickly padded and fleshy top phalange. Such people as

possess this formation are obstinate to a dangerous degree, they stop at nothing to get their ends, especially is this the case where the head line indicates determination.

CHAPTER V

THE MOUNTS OF THE HAND

THE mounts of the hand are those fleshy pads found at the base of the fingers, and are named after certain heavenly bodies. Originally having an astrological significance, these names must now be regarded as mere labels ; in this system of scientific palmistry they have no connection with the astrological significance of their origin.

It is of importance that the student be able to detect any displacement of these mounts. This is very easily done by observing the exact position of the apex. The apex of the mount is found where the confluentations of

the ridges in the skin's surface meet and so make a small whorl or junction—this is best seen in the finger tips. In most cases, especially where the general texture of the skin is fine, a magnifying glass will be needed to discern them clearly. Half an hour's study of either your own or a friend's hand will make you familiar with their positions and appearance. Where a mount is displaced it is generally attracted by some other and more highly developed mount, thus the displaced mount's normal indications are tinged with the traits shown by the magnetic mount. The morbid tendency indicated by Saturn may be so strong as to overshadow or displace the brighter disposition shown by the mount of the Sun or Apollo.

The first mount for our consideration is Jupiter ; this mount is found at the base of the first finger and by its normal development indicates ambition, pride, and a certain desire for power.

Where the mounts are raised, appearing abnormally high on the hand, then the normal indications are accentuated. Jupiter being thus developed indicates that ambition; the desire for power is a predominating trait in the character. Where these mounts are abnormally flat then the normal qualities are lacking.

Saturn is found beneath the second finger. This is perhaps the most important mount found in the hand, indicating where normally developed, a love of study, a prudent and earnest personality ; but when it becomes high on the hand it shows that the whole of that persons's outlook on life is tinged with a certain morbidness. The highly developed Saturn distinguishes those who possess a mentality that is dark, melancholy and depressing. This mount is often found thus in the hand of the materialist.

The mount of Apollo lies beneath the third finger and indicates an artistic temperament,

a love of change and excitement, and reveals a happy and sunny disposition.

The mount of Mercury beneath the little finger indicates a certain changeability of temperament, a love of wit, natural quickness of thought, and a mental versatility.

The mount of Luna is at the base of the hand towards its outer edge, and indicates the amount of imagination possessed by the subject.

The last is the mount of Venus—which is, in reality, the base of the thumb. This indicates the sexuality of the subject. Where this mount is highly developed the nature is naturally passionate, but whether this natural tendency is allowed rein or is curbed depends upon other marks in the hand ; the length and type of the head line has much to do with this, for in a highly developed intelligence the natural passions would be subject to more control than in the case of an unintelligent person.

To note the developments of the mounts

the actual hand is best ; but for the observation of the displacements, the imprint. Very rarely is a magnification of the imprint needed if they are properly taken—this, of course, is only a matter of practice.

CHAPTER VI

THE LINES OF THE HAND

HAVING examined the hand in a general sense, we must now consider the actual lines found in the palmer surface, and by these get a detailed and accurate estimation of character.

The line of Life is found running from just below the mount of Jupiter round the base of the thumb or the mount of Venus, down towards the wrist.

The Head line, or line of Mentality, runs from the beginning of the life line across the hand ; this line generally slopes slightly down towards the mount of Luna,

The Heart line commences beneath the second finger, just on the mount of Jupiter or from between the first and second finger, and runs out towards the end of the hand below the little finger.

The Health line is found running from beneath the little finger down towards the life line and touching it at some point. This line alters a great deal with the rise and fall of the vital force ; especially is this the case in the right hand.

THE LINE OF LIFE

The Life line indicates by its length the *natural* length of the life—that is, by its length you are able to estimate the amount of vital force and the probable duration of life.

If this line is long, clear and even, then the subjects are strong and optimistic in their outlook on life. Where this line starts high, that is on Jupiter, then the subject is dominated by ambition.

shown, until it actually goes right down on to the mount, then a condition bordering upon the abnormal is indicated. This condition of the line with the mount of Saturn high on the hand indicates that the imagination is morbid. Such a person would always look on the dark side of things. If the other lines are weak also, then the subject is definitely abnormal.

Where the line is fairly straight in the first half and then curves slightly, the imagination is good ; such a person would be able to see the other man's point of view and such a condition tends to create justice. It shows a common-sense way of dealing with things, even the things of the imaginative order.

This line ending in a small fork indicates that there is a lack of decisiveness, especially with the fingers smooth and the greater part of the Head line straight. The smooth fingers denote impulse and the straight Head line thought ; such a person would find it difficult to calmly sit and solve a problem,

whereas if they act quickly but with thought, they would invariably act rightly ; but by stopping to think, they are able to see so many ways out of a difficulty that they generally do the wrong thing. Where this line goes straight across the hand and at the end tends to turn in an upward direction, the person is practical and hard headed—a good business mentality, far-seeing and calculating. If this line goes with such a formation right to the edge of the hand, then too much calculation is shown. Such people try to see too far ahead. The line short and straight—very practical ; such people want to see or handle a thing before they can actually believe in its existence.

Where the line is fretted or crossed by a number of small lines—so small that they are only just visible to the eye, and there are actually in the line itself minute points or dots, this indicates a worrying disposition—a person that would worry in “spasms” and over trifles and other people’s affairs. Should

the lines of the hand be reddish, this worrying disposition is accentuated.

That the method of reading the peculiarities of the lines of the hand be quite clear to my readers, I would tell you that I can only give the meanings of certain formations, and that when you get a combination of these, a complex hand, it is not so difficult as you would imagine to be able to unravel the tangled skein. Apply reason and logic, and if you have the fundamental facts right, the rest is comparatively easy. In the case of the line of Head being fretted with small lines and having in it actual dots, where the lines are reddish in colour it is a logical conclusion to make that the worrying disposition is accentuated. The worry marks are there; but with the lines of the hand denoting rather a high blood-pressure, the brain would naturally be more prone to activity. The line of Head begins either with the Life line or just divided from it. This commencement is data that tells much. The

amount of confidence that one has in one's own ability, or to what extent we shrink from others and, like the oyster, "close up" in the presence of strangers. The line just touching the life line is good, especially if the line of Head should be long; just touching the Life line shows that there is just that amount of caution to prevent foolish action. The life is ruled by reason and common-sense. Should the line slope down then this caution is somewhat accentuated; that person would not be so practical, so determined and far-seeing as in the case of the long type of Head line.

The line of head slightly separated from the line of life indicates rather less control over the actions which, if the space is not too wide is excellent, it shows confidence in one's self, quick in action and decision. With the thumb firm, showing determination, and the line of head straight; such a person would be rather impatient, they would want to see quick results for their work or

thought. Should this space be very wide then it denotes such hasty action as to be foolish ; this type would rush into danger, they would act without a thought. With the supple type of thumb this becomes more than foolishness ; the supple thumb giving impulse, there is no check on the desire for hasty action, but is helped by impulse.

Commencing on the inside of the life line it denotes every quality in opposition to the “ open ” ; lack of confidence in self, changeable and retiring in disposition. Such persons would sit with strangers and never say a word, feeling thoroughly ill-at-ease, nervous and awkward.

This “ junction ” of the two main lines gives the palmist a very exact insight into the mentality of the subject, and it must always be borne in mind when dealing with other and less important points. Often a clever man becomes a failure through lack of confidence in himself; at the same time he may be a failure just the same from having

too much confidence—being rash, hasty and thoughtless.

This is of great value in the delineation of children's hands, as the lack of balance can be corrected by proper training and upbringing. There are few parents that know their own children, they think they do ; but the inborn traits of mentality are difficult to determine. A parent's judgment is so often biased by their own mental outlook and general conception of the world and its inhabitants. In the psychological dissection of human personality by means of an examination of the hand, the head line must be studied minutely and with care.

I have emphasised the fact that a straight line denotes the more practical and the curving line the more imaginative, therefore, when there is a branch leaving the line of head and going upwards towards the line of heart, it is only logical to assume that at the date when this line begins to branch off is a time when, through force of circumstances,

the subject is compelled to become more practical ; there is a sudden development of the mentality marked. Should the line afterwards be stronger—that is, thicker and clearer—the development has been lasting ; but should it on the other hand be weaker, more tangled, less clear, then that effort has involved such strain upon the brain that it has in some way become permanently injured or weakened.

A double line of head is rare, but it denotes great brain power ; it is more common to find a second and smaller head line developing at about twenty-five or thirty years of age. I recently examined such a hand ; in the left hand the head line curved down to Luna, but in the right hand there existed a smaller line of head which commenced at twenty-five years of age. The reading of this was simple, the natural mentality was naturally extremely imaginative, but through force of circumstances the person had to develop the more practical aspect of the mentality ; this

development would become permanent, although they would never lose the imaginative trait, it would be curbed and directed into its proper channels. It is somewhat difficult to decide when and where a person ceases to be abnormal and becomes insane. It is my contention that the easiest method of making a diagnosis of insanity is by consulting the hand. Actual insanity I deal with in the latter part of this book, but there is one abnormal formation that rightly belongs to this section. Where the head, life, and heart lines are joined under the mount of Jupiter, great determination is shown ; once a desire exists it has to be satisfied, and such subjects are blind to all danger. Hence, on a weak hand this formation would be dangerous to the person themselves as well as to others. The degree of danger would be determined by circumstances, often circumstances over which they may have no control. Again, we have a psychological trait that if taken in time,

that is, detected during childhood, can be prevented from assuming the dangerous development that it otherwise must assume at maturity.

CHAPTER VII

THE LINE OF HEART OR CARDIAC LINE

THE line of heart reveals to the scientific palmist the quantity and quality of affection possessed by the subject. This line reflects the affectionate spirituality of man in all its nakedness—this is the key to the inmost recesses of the heart.

“There are about us thousands and thousands of poor creatures who have nothing of beauty in their lives : they come and go in obscurity, and we believe that all is dead within them ; and no one pays any heed.”

Maeterlinck has uttered a greater truth than he knows. There are impulses and desires dwelling within some of us that we never allow the world to know of , Some are

good and some, to the sorrow of all that is good, are very evil. This study of the hand will bring you in contact with some of the hidden mysteries of the soul ; much that was clear and reasonable will be proved and much that you thought was truth will be revealed as an illusion.

The fact that there is so much of good in all of us and so much that is bad will be impressed upon you, and after you have seen some hundreds of hands you will realise how misjudged a man can be. I have seen in the hands of very good men and women inherited desires and tendencies that required all the force of will-power and reason to prevent them rising to bring disgrace upon a respected home.

This is no exaggeration. I have the imprint of more than one hand where there is shown an inherited sexuality so marked that only madness could be the result of its development, but in a number of cases this has been prevented by the development of

mentality. Reason and understanding hold in rein the animal appetites bestowed upon us. Whether affection is of the passionate, egoistical order, or of the self-sacrificing, idealistic type, it is shown in this line of heart. So exact is this science that by following to a logical conclusion the information given by this line, all the complex combination of affection and desire found in the human personality can be disentangled and their strengths estimated.

The line of heart begins on the mount of Jupiter, between the first and second finger or just below the mount of Saturn. This beginning gives the type of affection at a glance. Commencing just on the mount of Jupiter it reveals a reliable, lasting and strong affection ; one who will not readily change. Where this goes a little further on to the mount, then it denotes the person who is too affectionate, that is, they would be blind to the shortcomings of their beloved ; they are rather idealistsⁱⁿ in

matters of affection, but nevertheless a fine type.

Where the line begins between the two fingers, the first and the second, there is more passion in the affection, but still very affectionate. In love these people would be inclined to place a primary consideration upon their own desires.

Beginning actually on the mount of Saturn or just beneath it, then there is desire but little real affection ; the more animal instincts are allowed to predominate. Such a person would be selfish in matters of affection, they would gratify desire for the sake of the satisfaction of gratification alone. A strong predisposition for sexual vice is indicated if such a formation of the heart line exists in the left hand ; and if in the right it is the same, with the line of head indicating a lack of determination, this trait has been developed.

The line of heart is generally curved, the curve being the reverse to that of the head

line. Where this is so low on the hand that it comes down and is close to the head line, then such a formation indicates that the subject allows the affectionate side of the nature to rule the dictates of reason. They would do for affection things that might be against their own interests. But where the line is high on the hand with the head line drawn as it were to it, then the reason rules the heart ; affection is a matter of thought and is not in any way impulsive.

These two formations either widen or narrow the space that exists between the two lines. And the reading of this width is interesting and reasonable. If the line of heart sweeps down and narrows the space, which most palmists call the quadrangle, it indicates a narrow view of life ; such people would condemn others, whereas if they were to commit the same faults they would find satisfying excuses for their own conduct. This is a logical reading. To have the space between the lines narrow, with the heart line

sweeping down on the hand, the head line must be straight. A straight head line denotes reason and determination ; the downward curve of the heart line indicates passionate affection ; therefore the mentality would find excuses for the commitment of passionate faults.

Should this space be wide it denotes too broad a view of life—unconventional. If the head line is weak, this formation is immoral.

If the space is just narrow at its beginning and then by the curve of the head line it broadens out slightly, development is shown, and as the person grows older their views of life and their fellow-men will gradually change and become more just. This gradual widening would be caused by the head line being long and gently curving down towards Luna. which formation indicates imagination, the ability to see the other persons point of view, to visualise, as it were, their feelings, desires and temptations, and so

Where there is no line at all, then that person would be lacking in all true affection ; but such a void is very rare indeed. In the worst of us there is always some spark of kindly feeling for something or someone, if only for a dog. The man or woman that is entirely devoid of all capabilities of affection must surely be without hope ; they must live in a world that has no sun.

CHAPTER VIII

THE MINOR LINES OF THE HAND

THERE are a number of lines generally found in the normal hand that do not tell much by themselves ; they are, as it were, lines of accentuation. They corroborate the evidence of the main lines. From these smaller lines the palmist is able to obtain accuracy of detail that is astounding and yet so simple. It is very difficult for a savage to understand the ability of the white man to send their thoughts across the seas on paper, but this would be impossible if the alphabet had not been learned. It is very easy to read any hand once you have learned the palm-istic alphabet. Though I have called these the minor lines, there is in reality no such

thing ; *all* is important. Often in the courts of justice it is some almost insignificant piece of evidence that secures the vindication or the condemnation of the accused ; so in palmistry the small, insignificant data condemns or justifies certain traits of personality. Unlike the evidence of our courts, there can be no mistake, no distortion of that offered by the hand—for this comes from the soul—from the very centre of our being. It is that light in which the soul must stand with all its faults and failings, all its good and pure desires about it.

“ He sealeth up the hand of every man ; that all men may know His work.”

Those lines that I have designated “ minor ” are :

The Girdle of Venus,	The line of Intuition,
The line of Fate,	The <i>Via Lasciva</i> ,
The line of Apollo,	The Ring of Saturn.

It may seem strange to some of my readers that I include in this category, instead of

with the main lines, the line of Fate. My experience has told me that Fate is inborn ; it is ourselves ; what we are determines our fate in this world and the next. True, early training, environment, and force of circumstances over which we may have no control, all play their parts in moulding and preparing our end—our destiny.

Examine your own life. What might have been had you acted differently ? What was lacking—was it courage ? Was it confidence ? Was that mistake the fault of some inherited tendency that your parents, had they known, could have checked or arrested altogether its development ? “ It is a force of man’s own creating that plays the most active part in what it pleases us to call ‘ fatality ’.” You at thirty are a very different being to what you were at twenty. Examine yourself ; what has wrought this change ? Can you not discern your own handiwork, the working of your thought ? You are successful ; what amount of that

success is due to your own confidence? On the other hand, maybe you have failed; to what degree are you to blame for your own failure? Did you lack in confidence, did you think that those with whom you came in contact with through life had greater ability, greater gifts and talents than yourself? When you should have spoken, were you silent? If you are "fated" to meet a woman in six years' time that will ruin your career—your life, though this meeting cannot be foretold by means of the hand it may be true. But there must be some defect in the make-up of your personality that would enable you to be so ruined. You might meet such a man or woman to-morrow; they may be the means of your end being a tragedy; but do not blame fate, do not rail at your destiny. Unless you possess some abnormal trait, this tragedy is of your own creating.

Should you be left some thousands of pounds, then that is just luck; you may always win on the racing bets, this may be

intuition coupled with confidence. Then again you may lose through a lack of both intuition and confidence, or it may be that your information is unreliable.

But I think that you will agree, after deep consideration, that broadly speaking much depends upon ourselves, that success or failure come more often from within than from without.

Therefore, I have placed this line of Fate among the minor lines of the hand. More than one line is required to complete a character, so more than one line is required to ensure success. Your child may have some temperamental defect of character that should be eradicated or its development may hinder its career. This defect may not at the moment be discernible, and only by an examination of the hand is it possible to prevent the development of what may perhaps be a possible cause of failure in the later years of its life. It may be that you will find at first some slight difficulty in

recognising these smaller lines, especially on a very lined hand. But do not be discouraged, it is only a matter of practice. After having seen one or two different types in the imprint form, recognition will become very easy. It is impossible to show every kind of formation that you will meet with, as no two hands are the same in either shape or marking. I have often had people ask : "Will you please show me an ordinary hand." There is no such thing as an "ordinary" hand. There are types, but the palmer markings are all different, which is quite logical ; there are types of lives, but no two lives are the same in adventure, happiness or sorrow.

By the deep consideration of these "minor" lines you will perhaps be able to assist, or by timely warning prevent, some inborn trait of character developing to discount the talent and success of some fellow being.

CHAPTER IX

THE GIRDLE OF VENUS

THIS line is to be found at the base of the fingers, going from the mount of Saturn or the edge of Jupiter, over to Apollo, or just touching the mount of Mercury beneath the little finger.

It always denotes the sensitive type of personality when clearly marked, with a tendency towards emotionalism. It is to be found thus in the hands of all persons possessing a "temperamental" disposition.

The main significance of the line is sexuality. Although a person is sensitive, they are with this line heavily marked capable of being immoral. This is where the student of the science must be very

careful to take into consideration the other lines of the hand. Normally indicating a person that feels adverse criticism keenly, it is felt thus when given by one for whom they have affection.

Dealing with its main significance, where this line is broken into two or three pieces, its sexuality is accentuated to a predisposition towards vice. The strength of this predisposition is determined by an examination of the lines of mentality and heart. The heart line showing passion and the head lack of determination, that is curving downwards towards imagination, then such a person would impulsively give way to the cravings of the passions. The same broken Venus line, the heart line low and the hand soft, you have the undeniable evidence of sensuality. With the thumb supple, these people would not stop to think of the cost of gratification.

I have before me at the moment the imprint of a man's hand, and the Venus line

is made up of four broken lines running from the mount of Jupiter over to the mount of Mercury and touching that line which is designated "The Marriage Line," which is just below the little finger. The heart line is low and long, turning down towards the head line or the junction of the main lines ; this formation indicates selfishness in matters of affection, but with this particular formation of the Venus line it is not affection ; it is sexuality. The head line in this hand is very short, proving the materialistic outlook, the lack of all the finer sentiments that otherwise might have served to have checked the gratification of his animal desires. Where this line is so marked the subject would be very difficult to live with, they would be changeable, sensitive, irritable, and, to a pure type, nauseating in the intimate relationship of marriage.

This line read in conjunction with the heart line gives at a glance the quality of the affectionate nature ; but do not forget that

the left hand indicates that character which was ours at birth, untouched by the moulding hands of time and circumstance ; for this line may indicate actual vice in the left, but the right hand may show signs of improvement. The mentality may have developed, the affections may become purer, that is, the line may not be so broken and the heart line may denote more genuine affection.

By applying thought and reason you will be able to determine the exact quantity of pure affection, sexuality or sensuality indwelling. And again I must impress upon you the importance of corroborative evidence. The vicious abnormal indications shown by this line are dealt with in the medical aspect of the hand in the latter part of this book. For it is in the consideration of this line that we often stumble against the darker side of human nature, and sometimes it is very difficult to realise that such desires and tendencies can possibly exist in "the Temple of God."

THE LINE OF APOLLO

The line of Apollo, or Sun, was in ancient systems of palmistry called "the line of success." This no doubt was due to the fact that there are no successful hands that are without this line. Instead of bestowing success, it, in my opinion, indicates that trait or mental quality which is, as it were, the magnet of success in our lives. It is always found in the artistic hand, but very rarely in the materialistic type. This line commences on Luna towards the wrist, running up the hand to beneath the third finger. This commencement is important so far as time goes, but it will need some little practice on the part of the student to unhesitatingly detect its beginning at first, as it runs parallel with the fate line, which is on its inner side—that is, between Apollo and the life-line ; and on a very lined hand, especially the nervy, artistic type, its detection is somewhat difficult.

The significance of this line is that those people possessing it have a happy and bright disposition. A certain amount of magnetic influence is indicated. The existence of this line accentuates the sensitiveness given by the girdle of Venus, and where the head line is poor or weak, has little or no meaning, indicating a rather emotional temperament. Also, the line of Apollo distinguishes those who have the ability of appreciating all that is beautiful, according to the type of hand, either in art, music or literature.

The commencement of this line is important, because from that date things seem to be more prosperous, brighter and happier. In a number of hands that I have seen, where the early lives of the subjects have been tragic and hard, this line of Apollo has only shown itself on the palmer surface, just above the head line. The reading of such marking is logical and reasonable, as apart from any attempt at fortune-telling, for at this date their lives would become more

happy and more prosperous. Now this may not mean material success, but indicates that there is development of some inward faith, the development of resignation and patience. They in some way enjoy all the fruits of happiness that were denied them in the earlier years. Where such a marking is shown on a hand that indicates a brilliant mentality, then is it quite safe to prophesy ultimate success and fulfilment of ambition. There is one peculiar point with regard to this line that I have proved to be correct many times. Where it commences almost from the wrist itself on Luna and goes up unbroken to beneath the third finger, then success is indicated as being due to the caprice of others. In such a case other people's opinions and affections are as important a factor in success as the actual hard-work effort and determination of the subject himself. It indicates brilliancy and recognition, and exists in the hands of all public characters and is one of the best lines to be found

in the hand of the aspiring actor, actress, or preacher. Where this line exists well-marked and clear in a hand, the third finger of which is longer than the first, it indicates gambling instincts ; but with the thumb firm and the head line denoting determination, these instincts are latent, though even then the person would be inclined to take risks. The line of Sun marked in the materialistic hand, that is, the hand that is square and heavy and the head line straight, success to such subjects would be a matter of wealth. This is logical, as the materialist of the straight head line type has not the ability to appreciate art. Success must be something solid, something that can be handled. Such markings on a bad hand with the third finger twisted or crooked indicates that the evil qualities of the nature will dominate in the attaining of their ambition.

This line found on the very nervy, artistic type of hand, indicates that the subject is very easily influenced by environment and

friends. Especially so if the head line curves downwards denoting the romantic tendency. A hand devoid of the line of Apollo is the hand of one who has not felt the joys of happiness or that calm joy that is very akin to sorrow.

It is an excellent line to have if the other lines of the hand indicate those qualities which are able to support and sustain the "luck" denoted by Apollo.

CHAPTER X

THE LINE OF FATE

THE line of fate is that thread upon which time has strung the pearls of superstition. Man has ever desired to lift that veil which hides the future from us, and the desire to be forewarned, and so forearmed, tends to make some of us rather credulous ; but it must be borne in mind that the marks found in the palmer surface of the hand are the result of cerebral activity. That part of the human mind, the subconscious, the powers of which are beyond our knowledge, is to a great extent responsible for the existence of this line. The subconscious mind is able to achieve feats of calculation that to the conscious mind seem impossible, mysterious and

uncanny ; but in spite of this the subconscious mind is no wizard, and works upon lines of logic and reasoning. It is, as it were, a mathematician of the highest order. Hence it is reasonable to suppose that by the powers of calculation the subconscious mind is able to mark the advent of success or failure before either are reached, and this not by the knowledge of factors that are without us ; of circumstances over which we have no control, but by the knowledge that it has of the powers that dwell within us. For this line of fate I regard as being marked by the inner knowledge that we have of ourselves and our ability, knowledge which the conscious mind is unaware of.

It has been my ambition to sift the mass of palmistic lore to find the fundamental facts that were evidently known to the ancients, and I have come across markings the meanings of which at first glance may seem unable to bear the examination and tests that I have put them to ; and in certain

cases, instead of finding some superstitious fancy masquerading as truth, I have found it to be truth and wisdom of the highest order.

Though I maintain that the fundamentals of success or failure are vested within ourselves, I do not fail to recognise that there are cases where all individual efforts seem futile. I personally have only seen two such hands, and one day when we possess some greater knowledge, when we have grown wiser, we may even be able to find the cause of such fatality overshadowing a life. For example, we have the case of the Frenchman, Lesurque, who though innocent was condemned to death and executed in spite of the superhuman efforts made on his behalf by friends and relatives. Every action, every word, every gesture, made in his defence seems to have added to the weight of that frail evidence against him. His friend Legrand, on being ordered to produce his books, found that by a clerical blunder he had inscribed

certain dealings with Lesurque under a wrong date. Thinking to assist him he carefully erased the wrong date and carefully corrected it. This action of Legrand's, instead of saving the man whom he knew to be innocent, actually was the means of setting the seal upon his doom. The history of the Lesurque's case makes terrible reading. It seems that Lesurque could do nothing to help himself. Turn where he would he was discredited, his words fell on deaf ears, and even the action of his friend Legrand, when fully explained before the Court, was useless. It seems, after considering it calmly and dispassionately, that Lesurque was the sport of some malicious god. One is almost led to believe that he might have committed some terrible sin, but yet it was not so, for he was a good and upright man, and the very action which gave rise to this tragic sequence of events which led to his death was inspired by all that is kind, good and honest in man—namely, the welfare of his children. On

the other hand, let us again take from history an example wherein we can trace tragedy being due to some trait that would have been discernible in the hand, for this must have been, or it would not have been discernible after all these centuries in history. The flight of Louis XVI to Varennes proves the weak, cowardly character of the man that was directly responsible for his death. When the carriage containing the King was stopped at Varennes and there came the cry from the blackness of the night "in the name of the nation," there needed but one order from the King, one stern command and the history of the world would have been different. In the presence of the Mayor, who was respectful, undecided, hesitating, ready to do anything had one commanding word been uttered, but no word was spoken, the cowardice, the lack of confidence in himself, was directly responsible for the death of Louis XVI. It was not murder, it was not justice, it was suicide. It may be that in the

hands of such a King the mark of sudden death might have been found. The fate line may have terminated suddenly and shamefully, but this would not have been any miracle, as the subconscious mind of Louis XVI would have known that he was a coward, that he was weak, that national events were marching towards a terrific crisis, and that the personality of the King would become involved, and to this there could be but one issue—death, because that personality did not possess those traits of character which would enable him to stand his ground wisely, firmly, and with courage. His conscious mentality would be lacking in determination.

Therefore, I believe the fate line for its clearness and strength to be indebted in no small measure to the qualities of energy, understanding and ambition. The beginnings and the endings of this line both give important data. This line has three normal beginnings, the first is from the side of the

life line, that is running up with the life line for about half an inch, and then branching out into the middle of the palm and so up to beneath the second finger, or the mount of Saturn. Such a marking indicates that the individual efforts to attain success or an independent career are marred by the interference of relatives, the weight of home ties or the control and wishes of parents.

Where it rises from the centre of the palm lower down towards the wrist and then goes on straight and clear, success is attained by individual effort and hard work. Such a mark in a hand, with the line of Apollo also marked, indicates that good fortune will attend the career. "Fortune" may be the wrong word to use, as the line of fate, marked thus, straight and clear and long, indicates energy and ambition, and the line of Sun a happy, sensitive and bright disposition, the combination of these qualities doing much to attain recognition.

The third beginning of the line is from the mount of Luna, and in such a case success or failure are to a great extent dependent upon the affection, regard or hate with which we inspire those who come in contact with us. This is practically the same reading as where the line of Apollo rises from the same mount. Where the line ends actually on the mount, the success attending the career partakes of the quality of the mount upon which it ends. Thus, a line going up the hand and bending over towards Jupiter, indicates unusual distinction and ambition, and should the head line indicate determination and a corresponding amount of intelligence, then I should unhesitatingly read such marking as being unusually successful and distinctive—especially should the fate line actually end on the mount of Jupiter. It is sometimes seen that there is a double fate line—that is, at some point a branch seems to grow out of it and travel on parallel with it. Such marking would

indicate that there is a division of energy, the subject would be interested as it were in two careers. There would be two ambitions engaging the attention. I have seen such marking in the hand of a person who at 25, when this line branches from the original fate line and travels up the hand, getting stronger the higher it goes, while the original fate line gradually fades. In this case the person became interested in a fascinating hobby which gradually claimed all his attention and energy, eventually becoming a successful career, whilst the original business in which he was engaged became neglected and eventually was dropped altogether.

CHAPTER XI

THE LINE OF INTUITION

THIS is in reality quite a minor line, but one having some special interest, as it is found generally on the more “nervy” type of hand. Care must be taken that this line is not mistaken for the line of health, which is just on its inner side, when marked. There are quite a number of hands with no sign of the line of health in them. The special significance of this line of intuition is that it shows a highly strung and sensitive nervous system. In some peculiar way these people have the gift of intuition, either consciously or unconsciously developed almost to the point of actual clairvoyance. It is more often found in the hand of those in whose

veins flows Scottish blood. It is an old belief that the Highlanders, especially the women, were gifted with a "second sight." Far from being a legend, this seems to have foundation in truth. In quite a number of hands that I have examined recently I have detected this line of intuition marked only in the left hand, which proves, of course, that naturally they had this gift of intuition or clairvoyance given to them at birth, but being unaware of its existence, they had not developed it, or else their calling in life had not tended to its unconscious development ; but in cases where it is thus marked in the left hand only, I think you will find in nine cases out of ten that there is Scots blood somewhere in the family. It is a point of quite minor importance, but nevertheless of interest, for in considering the human hand and its markings we are really all the time considering minute things which life and circumstance magnify out of all seeming proportions.

Where this line is marked in both hands it signifies that the person acts by a peculiar species of intuition more than by thought, and that in nine cases out of ten they are right in so doing. They at times have vivid dreams and some sort of presentiments which may or may not be coincidence. But at all events this line denotes a special and peculiar type of nervous system. Such subjects possess some faculty which is denied to the normal human. Call it instinct, intuition or clairvoyance, in those persons where it is highly developed, this unknown power is uncanny, and at the moment there seems to be no rational explanation beyond the fact that their nerve force is finely attuned and very receptive of those magnetic vibrations thrown off by the human mind. This line is found on the edge of the hand beneath the little finger. It generally commences just below the heart line and runs down towards the wrist ending on Luna. It is formed in a semi-circle either broken or unbroken.

Where it is unbroken, its strength of course is accentuated. See Diagram 2D.

THE *VIA LASCIVA*

This peculiar line is shown in its general form in Illustration 3. Most palmists take its significance as meaning unbridled sensuality and passion ; and with a hand that is soft and flabby, a strong tendency for drink or drugs being indicated ; and that where it cuts through the life line, death is indicated. In my opinion this reading is extremely drastic, and it certainly is a great magnification of the truth.

This line is always found in the left hand of those in whose family there has lived a hard drinker, one who has had a love of women and wine. It certainly denotes a strong tendency towards sensuality and a craving for excitement, so that it is only logical to assume that should the other lines of the hand, especially the line of mentality,

cases surprised people by asking : “ Is there in your family any tendency towards drink? ” and they have confessed that maybe a grandfather or a great-grandfather had been too fond of the wine when it was red. In such cases, even if only marked in the left hand, I have strongly advised such persons to be very careful of acquiring a liking for any particular alcoholic beverage ; in the case of the very “ nervy ” type of hand, especially champagne, the reasons for this will be seen later. Often it is possible to detect the cause of some, either temporary or permanent, derangement through this line existing in the hand. With this line strongly marked and almost touching the life line and the head line showing signs of weakness, it will be very safe to assume that the fundamental cause of the mental weakness is due to some form of vice.

RING OF SATURN

This small but peculiar mark is found beneath the second finger and runs from one side to the other in the form of a semi-circle which encloses practically the whole of the mount of Saturn. The majority of palmists give as the significance of this line a lack of continuity of purpose. They seem to think that such a person is doomed by Fate to be unsuccessful. This line I take to be a peculiar formation of the previously-mentioned girdle of Venus and indicates a very highly strung, sensitive and changeable temperament. Such temperaments naturally would be very unlikely to achieve anything like success, but I certainly read this mark as a defect of temperament, and not as some brand or curse placed in the hand by some unknown power or god. Such an assumption is rather ridiculous.

CHAPTER XII

CORROBORATIVE MARKINGS FOUND IN THE HUMAN HAND

I HAVE often been amused by the wonderment expressed by the uninitiated when I have revealed some accurate detail connected either with their lives or their character, but in reality, as I have said before, it is perfectly simple. Mystery is the child of ignorance. There are a number of marks which are found in the human hand that in themselves have little or no significance, but when taken in conjunction with other and more important markings give that corroborative finish, that exactness of detail which makes for the impressiveness of a delineation,

and it is in connection with these, what I term corroborative markings that we again stumble across a deal of superstition. In one book which I read some years ago on palmistry I was informed that a black mark existing on the finger tip denoted the murderer. This, of course, I soon found to be sheer foolishness. I have never in any case, in any hand, yet seen a black mark, that is, a small round black speck, neither on the finger-tips nor in the hand. If such mark exists, then it must be due to either congealed blood beneath the skin surface, due to a pinch or blow, or some small hair that has grown and unable to pierce the outer epidermis, has curled beneath it until it has reached sufficient length to show as a small bluish mark. This, of course, can have no palmistic significance at all. Another mark that is often mentioned is the Circle which, when found on the mount of Luna, we are told by the modern prophets, indicates a danger of drowning. This, in my opinion,

is again sheer imagination. Some long time ago now I happened to be walking by a rather deep lake and witnessed the gallant rescue of a woman from drowning. I assisted in carrying her to a large house where we had some little difficulty in restoring life. With the curiosity of the scientist, I, as soon as possible, examined her hand. There certainly was no sign of any Circle, though she had been in grave danger of drowning, but plainly marked was a mental derangement, and from the marks found in that hand a very strong possibility of her life ending by her own hand. This, of course, had nothing to do with Fate ; self-destruction was the form that her madness had taken, and her choosing the medium of water to attain this end may not altogether have been due to blind chance ; it may have been that the melancholy trait in her character was fascinated, was attracted by the environment of that dark and dismal lake, and in a sudden impulsive moment the

distorted mind caused this poor creature to attempt her life.

The first of these corroborative markings is the Star. This should be clear and distinct, and is generally found actually on the mounts themselves, and indicates that success is in some way connected with the quality of that mount. Thus marked on Venus, indicates that the subject would be successful in all matters connected with the affections. And on Jupiter, it promises power and position ; but this is a mark which I personally regard as a relic of superstitious palmistry, and I cannot call to mind ever having seen it.

The next mark of importance is the Cross. Now in this case I cannot find any reasonable explanation for all of the positions in which the Cross is found, but I have proved the following significances to be possessed of truth. Marked on Jupiter, one affection seems to exist in the life. This may be again a remnant as it were of the Girdle of

Venus giving some peculiar twist to the development of the ambition which, of course, this mount indicates. Where this Cross is found clearly marked on the mount of Apollo, it indicates that the pursuit of riches, of fame and distinction is unsuccessful. This again is in all probability a formation of the Girdle, and it is quite possible that the two broken ends, which would give a restless, irritable disposition, form the mark in that position. It is certainly an adverse sign to have, and where it is marked against or on the line of fate, indicates a tendency for some change or some adverse circumstances that will arise. This I put in quite as a superstitious note and leave it to my readers to corroborate the exactness of this for themselves ; and I think that they will find in the majority of cases this reading is correct, though there is no explanation, no reason why. The one position in which it is of interest and of value is just beneath the head line, right at its end. Placed thus in

the hand and with a normal line of mentality—that is, a clear line exhibiting no abnormal traits, the subject would be self-deceptive. You are quite safe in telling that person in whose hand it appears that they do not like looking facts in the face, especially if the facts are distasteful to them, that they endeavour to deceive themselves, they may even be liars ; not from any desire to wilfully deceive, but more from the desire to “ bolster up ” their own conceits, vanities and ambitions.

Yet another form of marking which is often observed in the hand and may often throw a beam of light upon some obscure point is that formation which is known as the Grille. This, as you will see by Illustration 3, is a series of parallel lines, or may be slightly entangled one with another, and are to be found on the mounts of the hand.

When the Grille is found heavily marked on the mount of Jupiter, it indicates a

tendency towards selfishness, pride and power.

Where this mark is observed on the mount of Saturn, it accentuates the melancholy and morbid tendency on the actual mount. I have noticed in some books on palmistry that this formation on Saturn is taken as meaning misfortune in life, and once again that superstitious reading is logically correct, as often the fundamental cause of misfortune is a dark and morbid nature—one who will not permit happy and good thoughts to inspire them.

Found on the mount of Apollo it denotes the fickle and flighty, those persons who always like to be in the limelight, not to gratify a desire for power but to gratify the vanity of their own conceits.

These lines on Mercury accentuate the changeability of the subject. They enhance the love of wit and excitement, through this accentuation these people are decidedly

unreliable, and in a poor hand it indicates a character that is dishonest.

This formation marked on the face of Luna is supposed to indicate discontent and disquietude, a person that is swayed by their moods and emotions ; but this has another and far more important aspect which is dealt with in the reading of health.

Marked on Venus, it indicates changeability of affection and passion.

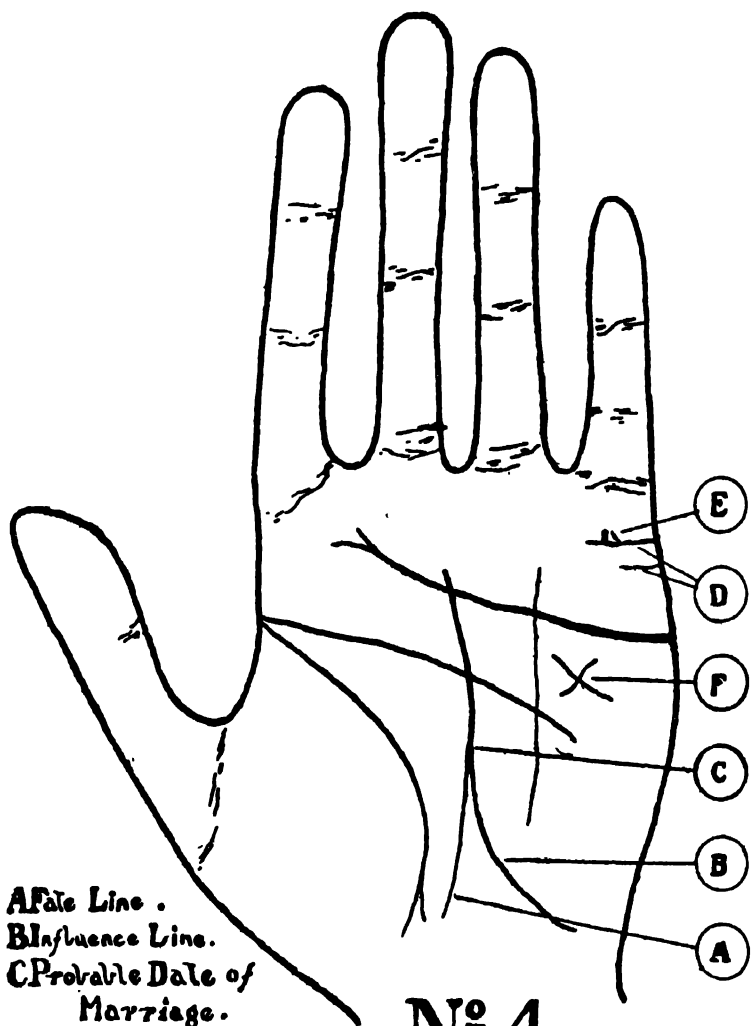
As you will see by the foregoing, this formation should in reality be called the mark of accentuation, being found only on the mounts, and in every case the quality of those mounts when thus marked are magnified.

The Island is a peculiar mark which is found in nearly every hand. This, as you will see in Illustration 3 and 7, may be formed by the running together of two lines, or it can be made by a line breaking or splitting and ultimately joining again. Of the greatest significance when considering health it has

but little meaning when dealing with character. The line of life that is much islanded, that is made up of a series of small islands and the actual line itself between them being thick and thin, denotes the changeable, fickle, irritable character ; and the fundamental cause of this is found in the analysis of the subject's health ; such a formation always indicating a weak and fragile constitution. Found on the line of fate it signifies a period of adverse circumstances. I have heard of it being read as a guilty intrigue, which of course is all nonsense. The reason that I am sure the "adverse circumstance" interpretation is correct, is because when thus marked on the fate line it is caused by this line splitting in two and again joining. This splitting would be caused, I think, by some sudden activity ; force of circumstances might be such as to compel the subject to find some other means of earning their daily bread. In any case the mentality of the subject during this

period of strain would be concerned with some alternative to the career that seems to be failing. Once things begin to be more assured, this strain would naturally cease, so also would the mental concern and activity, this would cause the departing line to again join the original fate line and proceed up the hand clearly and strongly, leaving behind that mark indicating the period during which things were "not as settled as they might have been."

There is sometimes seen clearly marked in a hand a perfect square. The Square is always given as a mark of preservation, and wherever it is found it is supposed to defend the subject from some danger connected with the significance of the mount or line on which it is found. Thus the line of mentality seeming to run through a Square indicates preservation from strain and worry or overwork, that is preservation of the actual brain. These lines that go to make up this mark may be brought into existence



A. Life Line.

B. Influence Line.

C. Provable Date of Marriage.

D. Marriage Lines.

E. Children.

F. Cross Indicating Physical Power.

No. 4.

by the very strain itself. Worry or a deal of brain work would of themselves stimulate the activity of those nerves running into the hand and to which these markings owe their existence.

CHAPTER XIII

THE LINE OF MARRIAGE

THE position of this line seems to be of vital importance to the majority of the younger generation to whom I have spoken of palmistry, and I have grown rather tired of explaining that it is absolutely impossible to tell with any degree of certainty the actual date of marriage. I have even had quite a number of people ask : “ When shall I meet my partner in life ? ” or “ What will she or he be like ? ” How foolish, puerile, and stupid it is to imagine that you can by an examination of the hand see there photographed as it were some person that may never even exist. In certain cases it is possible to carefully estimate the probable

date of marriage, but the ability to do this depends upon two things. First, the sub-conscious mind of the subject must be aware of the growing affection that already exists, and so the line denoting an affectionate influence is lengthened by obscure and mysterious calculations of this unknown part of our personality. Second, that the person in whose hand this line exists has every indication of energy and determination. In an impulsive hand it would be extremely risky to even calculate most carefully a probable date. Then again, how are we to know that marriage, presuming of course that the affection and attraction is great enough, will actually become a fact. Certain circumstances, prejudices, a thousand and one things arising from a thousand and one causes may prevent or render undesirable such union, but from the point of view of the hand the marriage service should have been read during a certain year, though actually there may have been no marriage.

Supposing that two people love strongly, ardently, and in the case of one person the affection is of that quality which is lasting and deep, but their partner in affection, through force of circumstances or some cause or other, is either unable or unwilling to enter into holy matrimony, but they do live together and enjoy the delights of the marital relationship, there would be marked in the hand every sign of marriage, as there exists the foundations, the actual edifice of marriage, but unblessed by the Church.

In the case of a person that is emotional, affectionate, but at the same time changeable and impulsive, you may find quite a number of these affectionate influence lines running up into the fate line, but where you are reading such a hand the probability of marriage would only be at the date of the conjunction of the longest and deepest affection line with the fate.

There are corroborative marriage lines found on the edge of the hand beneath the

little finger, and these should corroborate the date given on the fate line. In answering questions of this sort the type of hand should assist you to some extent. Where the character is good, and also mentality and determination exists, you would be safe after some practice in calculating the age, but in the hand of one whose mount of Venus is flat, undeveloped, with a lacking of affection marked and the line of life running close round the mount of Venus and so narrowing its domain, the possibilities of marriage are remote. The method of estimating the strength of affection or an affectionate influence is this : those lines which run up from the mount of Luna ultimately joining the fate line are lines of influence, affectionate influence ; and at the date of the junction with the fate line is the probable date of marriage. This can be corroborated by the small lines found beneath the little finger. Both of these marks are found in Illustration 4. Should this influence line run just over the fate line,

that is, cross it and jut out on the other side, then the influence is presumed to be unhealthy. It certainly indicates that the influence exists in the person's life as a dominant one. Presuming that you are reading the hand of some person whose age is 20, and there exists a line thus marked running up to join the fate line at 26, you will be fairly safe on a good hand in calculating that marriage will in all probability take place at that age.

Where you see marked a number of these influence lines, some short and fine, some long and deep, such marking would testify to the amorous inclinations of the subject ; such lines are thus marked on the hand of an emotional person who has an affection of a passionate kind.

Another point of interest which adds to the accuracy of the delineation and to the bewilderment of the subject is obtained by observing the line of fate after the junction effected by the line of influence. Should

the line of fate therefrom be deeper and clearer, the influence has been to the benefit of the individual. It has stimulated their interest, ambition and energy. On the other hand, should it be weaker, more broken, it would then indicate that this influence was not for the betterment or happiness of the subject.

CHILDREN

It is a question that is often asked of a palmist : " How many children shall I have ? " and it is a question which is most difficult to answer. For in the answering so many complexities have to be thought of. In a hand, for instance, of a person where everything may point to a family of three or four, there may yet exist some form of ill-health or actual disease which may render sterile the organs of reproduction ; and though the desire exists it can only remain as it were—a family of dream children. Then

again, we must consider that though one partner may desire a family, the other may not. Circumstances, that is financial prospects, etc., may be such that it would be unwise to bring into the world children who would not have all those chances in life that they should. I have often been asked the question : " Should I have a family or no ? " My answer to this question is always prefaced by the remark : " I can only give you the answer to this question from the point of view of health, and it is for you to decide if you can bear the cost, if you can give them that education and that chance in life which is their due—their right," and in certain cases I have strongly advised not abstinence, which is foolish and against the laws of nature, but the employment of scientific methods of birth-control. I would strongly advise the student to refrain from giving any dogmatic advice until he or she has acquired some considerable degree of proficiency.

The human body is so wonderful a thing, so delicate a machine, that it is only in cases where it is absolutely imperative that there be no child-bearing. That this machine be unable to bear the strain, where for instance the wife is highly-strung, and maybe the heart affected by the nervous system, and marked in the hand is every sign of internal weakness, then should I say "No." These lines indicating children are fine perpendicular lines standing on the edge of the marriage line, which is beneath the little finger. Personally, I only regard them of value when they relate to the children already born. Where these lines relate to the future I only say, where everything else, of course, balances the marking, that two or three is the probable number of the family. But I would impress upon the student yet again the impossibility of being certain with regard to the future, unless it be related to either traits of character or disease; and after all, it is not of such vital importance to know the

size of the family, as to whether a woman is capable of child bearing without damaging the delicate organism of her being—permanent, crippling damage.

Some little while ago I examined a hand of a lady who asked this question : “ Am I capable of having a child ? ” From the main markings of the hand I was able to see that her affection was such that a little one was the ambition of her life, but after careful consideration I found that, due to a combination of weaknesses, it was at that moment impossible. There existed anæmia, a low nervous vitality, coupled with a weakness of the uterus. My advice was that if she required a child she must first of all prepare her body for its inception. The anæmic tendency must be eradicated, the blood made richer and stronger, and the nervous system toned up so that her vitality would be normal. Then it was quite possible that she would be able to gratify her ambition.

These perpendicular lines are minute, they run from the edge or end of the marriage line out towards the edge of the hand, and it is the upright, broad lines that indicate male children and the fine sloping lines female.

CHAPTER XIV

VARIOUS OBSERVATIONS RELATING TO CHARACTER

IN that space which exists between the heart and the head lines, known as the quadrangle, there is often found a small cross, which is shown on Illustration 4F. This indicates a natural adaptation for some form or other of mysticism, and when I have observed it I have placed this construction upon it, that such people are endowed naturally for psychic investigation, but invariably the nervous system or the mentality is entirely unfitted for such a pursuit. This mark indicates as it were the natural medium, and is generally found on the hands of those people

possessing a certain form of highly-strung nervous system. In spiritual investigation it is essential that the sitters or mediums should possess this peculiar type of nervous system before any phenomena or manifestation can be witnessed. The theory that I hold with regard to this is that the quantity and quality of nervous energy is so fine and abundant that disincarnate entities can take vital force or power from the individual and use it for purposes of manifestation. It is few who have a sufficient quantity of this power to spare. Where it is easily drawn off, care and discretion must be used, or the physical being of the mortal would after a time suffer, but in what manner depends upon the weaknesses and predispositions shown in the hand. This peculiar mark is generally found in the centre of this space below the heart line, either under the mount of Saturn or Apollo, though it may be in any position in the Quadrangle, but by its clearness and its depth you will be able to gauge the

degree of the natural endowment. You will observe on a great number of hands, I may say on the majority, that between the age of 15 to 25 there are a number of lines running from the mount of Venus, crossing the line of life, and ending either on the line of fate, heart or head. Again, they may be marked just jutting over the line of life or just stopping on the inner side of this line. These lines indicate the amount of confidence or secretiveness possessed by the subject. Where the lines run across the line of life irrespective of where they end, indicates that the person is easily influenced by the opinions of others ; especially should these lines actually end at the line of mentality. You will observe that where these " ray " lines, as they are called, are thus marked at the junction with the line of mentality, the line becomes either stronger or slightly weaker, which is, of course, quite logical.

Where these lines just cut the line of life, and are numerous and fine, it indicates that

the person is too confiding, and with a supple thumb, of course, the confidence would be given impulsively. Such persons would tell all their hopes and ideals, afterwards regretting having spoken so freely. Where they stop on the inner side of the line of life, and do not cut into or cross it, it indicates that the person whose hand is thus marked keeps things very much to themselves. They will listen to all that other people may say, but they accept no advice but that of their own intelligence and reason. They are secretive and self-centred.

The palm of the hand itself, its shape, thickness and colouring, also assists in the analysis of character and mentality. You will naturally observe that some hands are broad and full, others thin and scraggy, some are hard and some soft. All this gives us broad indications of the type of character.

The breadth of the hand denotes energy and vitality, a certain abundant flow of animal

spirits. The hand that is narrow, scraggy and lean indicates the opposing qualities. Such a person would be adverse to activity and there would exist littleness of spirit ; a very lined, "nervy" type of thin hand denotes the irritable, peevish, fault-finding type of person ; and with long fingers which give thought, they would be inquisitive. They would bother over other people's affairs.

The broad hand that is firm, but not hard, and elastic without being soft, is one of the best types to possess, indicating the evenly-balanced, intelligent, appreciative type of person. This same type with the hand very full and very soft, all the foregoing qualities are accentuated. It would indicate over-confidence and sensuality.

Where the hand is very hard it is the materialistic type. Such hands are generally broad, thick and short. A squat-looking hand, and this approaches very near to

the anthropoid. The line of mentality of such a hand would be short. The mount of Venus highly developed, the thumb stubborn, and this combination would indicate brutality, selfishness and obstinacy.

It has been suggested by one writer of certain fame that the hand of the gorilla should give us, if read by a palmist, the character of a human. This, of course, is foolish. The hand of the larger apes if examined on the light of scientific palmistry would give you the character and low mentality of the brute. There is in the Royal College of Surgeons the hand of an anthropoid. In this hand the thumb is very cramped and close to the hand. The fingers are heavy and stubborn, the palmer surface extremely broad, and the skin very hard. There are only the two main lines marked—the head line, which is just a short crease, and a thick heavy line of life. Such markings found in the hand of a human would

distinguish him as having the soul of a beast.

When making a delineation from an imprint, although the data given by the back of the hand is missing, it is to some extent compensated for by the fact that when the imprint is clearly taken, the finger-tips are very clearly shown. The first finger pointed, indicates a certain natural intuition. Where it is conical in shape, a certain perception and a leaning towards literature. The spatulate termination to all the fingers indicates activity.

The second finger pointed, indicates a tendency towards the morbid, rather a melancholy nature. Where it is conical, it tends more to religion and religious observances, a certain amount of emotionalism.

The third finger pointed, denotes the idealist. It is an accentuation of the conical

type of finger ending, which denotes an artistic mind.

The little finger pointed, shows a tendency towards reason ; and conical, it denotes the ability to be tactful and diplomatic.

The observation of the finger-tips coupled with that of the breadth of the hand, gives a very broad and clear insight into the general aspect and worth of the character. The lines of the hand are the source from which you must obtain the detail. A very short, broad hand, almost squat in aspect, with the line of mentality extremely long and fine, is seemingly a contradiction, but this is not so. You must ever remember that the secret of palmistic success is the ability to analyse, to estimate and then to arrive at a logical conclusion ; and in this case the breadth of the hand would give energy and vitality, and a certain practical method of treating even the things of the imaginative order ; but with the line of mentality long

and fine, an unusual degree of thought is indicated. Such a combination tends of course towards worldly success, and this would be accentuated if the junction of the line of life and head is slightly open.

The edge of the hand itself, from the little finger down towards the wrist, is another important point to observe. It is natural when the mount of Luna is highly developed that the lower edge of the hand would swell out slightly. This indicates the development of the imagination, especially if the curve is more apparent in the right hand than in the left. Where the edge of the hand is straight, the imagination is confined by reason. It is quite possible for the whole of a person's life to be altered by the development of some latent trait or characteristic.

I have before me at the moment the imprint of a certain famous man, and in the left hand the junction of the lines of life and

head is closed, the two lines being very closely united, indicating that naturally he was very cautious, retiring, and utterly lacking in self-confidence ; but through force of circumstances he was compelled to develop those natural gifts with which he was endowed, and this compelled the development of a certain amount of confidence, but with the development of his mentality he gained moral courage, with the result that to-day this junction in the right hand is " open."

Of course the significance of an imaginative head line on a broad and practical hand would be lessened in the same way as the long and thoughtful head line on a materialistic, idealistic type of hand is rendered less reliable, less far-seeing, thoughtful and determined.

Some palmists profess the ability to foretell the advent of a voyage or journey. I fail entirely to see how this is possible. It has been given as a fact that travel is indi-

cated by lines on the face of Luna or by hair lines, that is fine drooping lines, leaving the line of life, but this in my opinion is a scientific fact which has suffered superstitious misuse. Such markings as lines running from the life line and then travelling on with it, there being two parallel life lines as it were, indicates a great deal of vital force, and naturally such people would be very energetic. With the lines marked also on the face of Luna their imaginations would be active. They would seek change. They would delight in visiting strange places and in seeing new countries and making the acquaintanceship of new peoples, and though it is a probability, travel is by no means a certainty.

I do not think that the powers of the subconscious are so miraculous that they are able to mark in the human hand through the reflex action of the nerves a journey that may be undertaken in perhaps ten or twenty years' time. Such assumption is neither

logical nor reasonable. Such a line may possibly be marked after preparations—mental preparations that is, not material—are made for a long journey.

CHAPTER XVI

A SYSTEM OF PALMISTIC DIAGNOSIS

UPON all machinery there are gauges fixed which indicate the quantity and pressure of the energy being used, the flow of lubricating substance, the heat of the various bearings, and so forth ; and the engineer in charge has only to glance at these small clock dials and they at once tell him whether the power is falling or rising. They indicate to him unfailingly any tendency for a serious defect to occur. In the same manner the divine machine, Man, has been fitted with a gauge which must surely indicate the pressure of the vital force, the resistance to disease. At the same time it indicates those

organs that are weak, thereby revealing at what speed and in what manner this machine may be used so as to prevent its breaking down.

I would at once state that this system of palmistic diagnosis is far from complete. It is a work involving the expenditure of much time, thought, and a careful comparative study of hands ; but I claim to have made some progress in laying the foundations. I must admit that I have received valuable assistance in the matter of facilities being afforded me to inspect the hands of those suffering from certain complaints, which I shall deal with. Also I have received words of encouragement from men of authority and scientific achievement which is most gratifying.

It is always unwise to ridicule a new theory or idea on the grounds of its newness. In spite of the truth of this, it is surprising in this age of discovery to find so many who, discarding thought, cling blindly to the

prejudices of their early training or perhaps fail to admit the narrowness of their own intelligence. This has been proved time and time again. We have only to examine the lives of some of the most illustrious names in medical history to be surprised with what hostility, bitterness and bigoted criticism the truer visions of these enlightened minds were met with ; and this of course was not confined to the medical profession. Their criticism, their hostility, was shared, supported and strengthened by that of various religious sects whose view was that progress was against the will of God. The acquisition of knowledge of course does not in itself indicate progress. This is shown in its application. The prevention of pain and suffering, even death, by the application of modern knowledge in a practical everyday manner is real progress. The acquisition of knowledge in itself is not wrong. It is only proved to be right or wrong in the method of its application. To those of my critics

who will hurl the accusation of "necromancy," in their very accusation they themselves are answered. A speck of dust is blown into the eye, intense pain is felt, the nerves immediately compel the eyelids to close ; this automatic action of the nervous system is not necromancy, and it is on somewhat similar lines that the human hand is marked. The nervous system is responsible for these folds and creases in the ridges of the skin. Certain forms of functional disorders of the kidneys are marked in the hand by minute spots or points which appear only in the imprint form, so fine are they. This is a multiplication of the sweat glands in the skin. This is not necromancy, it is a natural adjustment.

"There are many things about the interaction of mind and body that we as yet do not understand. . . . We must very carefully examine facts and see what is established, and what is not." Sir Oliver Lodge might have been writing of scientific palm-

istry instead of spiritualism when he penned these words. There is much that is unexplainable, there is much more that is undiscovered ; but at the moment we have sufficient knowledge to make a scientific survey of the human hand a practical, valuable, and useful thing from a health point of view alone. There are few people indeed in this world who have not inherited some peculiar predisposition or other. There is practically no one who has not some weak point in their physical being. Some of us have naturally a higher resistance to actual disease, and others have none. Some people are delicate, yet never actually ill ; and others are robust, but the first small illness that comes rapidly develops and they sink.

Again, it is of use in the estimation of mentality from a medical point of view. By any ordinary or known test, with what degree of certainty is it possible to tell where actual insanity begins and abnormal traits cease ?

How easy it is for medical practitioners to unwittingly be misled, either through faulty descriptions of symptoms or distortion of actual symptoms, by the peculiarities of the physical body. A pain in almost any part of the human body can originate in about twenty different ways. How often is the fundamental cause of all ill-health due to one deep-seated and often undiscovered cause. So delicate, so beautifully adjusted and attuned is that combination of mind and body, that in some cases it would require two or three hours' exhaustive examination, besides a complete history of the patient and the family, to discover perhaps some trifling but deep-seated functional disorder. My claim is that by consideration of the human palm it is possible in a matter of thirty minutes to clearly see the fundamental cause of ill-health ; but it must be borne in mind that these researches are not yet complete. They are only complete enough to be of practical assistance and value in certain diseases. For

example, it is possible to detect a predisposition for consumption and to distinguish it from actual active disease by means of the hand ; but with cancer, this at the moment is not possible. Another important use of this knowledge would be in the estimation of the value of a life in surveying for life insurance. As things are at the moment, it is only possible for the medical man to detect actual active disease, and he may by consulting the family history have a guess at any predispositions which might have been inherited. There is not, in my opinion, that degree of certainty as there would be in making an examination of the hand. These claims will no doubt be regarded by some as excessive—as exaggerations ; but as a matter of fact I have deliberately restricted and under-rated them, and I give you with every confidence the necessary informations for these facts to be proved by yourselves and to your own satisfaction.

CHAPTER XVII

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND THE HAND

THE first step in the delineation of health is a consideration of the type of nervous system possessed by the subject. These types are three in number. The first is the hand bearing lines which are clear, broad and not deep. This is the normal type where the animal or physical strength predominates. Such people have energy of a physical character, but they lack in nervous vitality. On such hands the health line, with which we shall deal later, is almost always unmarked.

The next type is the nerve hand. The lines are numerous and fine, and by their fineness indicate the quantity of nervous force. These subjects always possess more

nervous vitality than actual physical strength. They are able to withstand illness by sheer will-power or nerve force that the previously-mentioned physical type would succumb to. This type is most often found amongst women. Though I have seen a very heavy practical type of hand with the lines fine. Such markings, of course, indicates that there is an abundance of vitality as well as physical strength. In this "nervy" type of hand it is most common to find that the nervous system is responsible for weakness of the heart and gastric trouble, which of course goes to form the foundation for so many forms of ill health.

The third type is that hand wherein the lines are deeply and rather broadly marked, and at the same time they are rather numerous with the mounts at the base of the fingers developed. This gives the emotional type of hand. The mounts being developed indicates an equal quantity or capacity for varying emotions ; and the lines broad and deep

distinguishes those subjects that feel all emotions most keenly ; they would be switched very quickly by circumstances and surroundings from one emotion to another, so that the whole nervous system or cerebral force is constantly in a state of activity. This type I have named the neurasthenic type, as in all cases that I have seen of neurasthenia this type of line is present.

Of course in dealing with health you must, as when considering character, analyse and carefully weigh one point against another ; but the main indicators will be the line of health and the line of life, which in reality should be known as the biological line. Having made a survey as it were of the nervous force by glancing at the back of the hand and closely examining the finger-nails, you will obtain indications of predispositions which, unless supported by evidence in the palm of the hand, must not be taken alone. For example, the

nails may be of a consumptive or chest type, but in the palmer surface there may be no mark to support the supposition of the possibility of the development of this disease. The finger nails must only be regarded as indicators, and I would impress this most strongly upon you. I therefore will enumerate briefly the type of nails most commonly found, though it is quite possible to occasionally find a hand with such a mixture that nearly all types may be represented on the one hand. In such a case you would of course only notice the development or non-existence of those moons that are found at the base. The moons indicating the heart's action, where they are large and full, circulation is good. Where they are non-existent, circulation is sluggish, the heart's action slightly weak. The first type of nail, which is most common, is the long filbert shape. This is a chest type of nail and on the long thoughtful finger, where the joints are pronounced, there is indicated a predis-

position for some disease of the chest which in most cases is consumption ; but it is corroborated on the palmer surface. The next type is the short, broad nail, rounded at the base. This is the heart type of nail, and is most often found on the short-fingered people. Where the lines of the hand are reddish in colour, which denotes a rather high blood pressure, these nails would at once give a predisposition towards heart disease. The third type is the long, narrow, and at the base, pointed nail. This indicates some nerve weakness, and where the nail of the little finger is pointed at the base with corroborative markings in the palmer surface, it is safe to assume that there is a predisposition for some form of nerve seizure, such as epilepsy, or paralysis of either limb or speech. Small white spots in the fingernails indicate a highly-strung condition of the nervous system.

Between the indications afforded by the type of nervous system and those given by

the finger-nails you have a sound foundation to work upon, but you must make it a rule never under any consideration to tell a subject that he or she is suffering, or likely to suffer, from any particular disease unless you are perfectly assured that you are right. The only method with which to attain this accuracy is to get at least three points to corroborate your reading. Also, it must be borne in mind that should there exist a predisposition for any particular disease, it must depend upon the type of nervous system and mentality as to whether you will reveal or warn the subject against this possible danger. This, of course, is a matter of practice and experience alone that will enable you to decide whether it is wise to speak or just to remain silent.

Among those imprints which are reproduced in this book is the hand of H. Dennis Bradley, the well-known author. This imprint was taken in August, 1924, and at this time I knew nothing of Mr. Bradley

personally. I had read some of his books, and was interested in the change of mentality shown in *Towards the Stars*. It was for the purpose of examining this remarkable mentality that I approached Mr. Bradley with a view to obtaining this imprint, and this he was kind enough to allow me to have. A day or two later I sent him my delineation and warned him that the nervous system, should any great strain be placed upon it, would affect the heart's action ; and this was the one point over which he said I was wrong. I knew that he was interested in conducting some spiritualistic experiments, but it was not until later that I realised the amount of work which he was doing, and I again warned him about this existing weakness. My concern was not caused by him conducting spiritualistic experiments, although he, and to a minor degree Mrs. Bradley, were acting as the mediums ; but this, coupled with the fact that he was engaged in writing a book and was more than overworked with business,

I could see danger from his continuing. It meant that he had to ease the strain upon the nervous system in some way, either by ceasing spiritualistic experiments or resting from business. It must be clearly understood that it was not due to any harmful effect emanating from these experimental sittings, but was entirely due to the combination of the three sources of interest ; and in each case strain was being placed upon this nervous system. My warning was entirely disregarded. Towards the end of October I received a letter from Mr. Bradley wherein he stated that he had been warned by his sister, who died some years ago, that he must cease experimenting for a time. In a personal chat which I had with him later he confessed that overwork had brought him to the verge of a nervous breakdown, and that it was his heart which began to feel the strain.

From the actual experience that I have had of seance, coupled with the knowledge of the

human nervous system gained in my study of the hand, my theory is that disincarnate entities take some form of nervous force and use it for the purposes of manifestation ; but although this be the case, there is no reason to assume that investigation can be harmful, especially if done in moderation. The danger would arise where a person has been actively engaged in some pursuit demanding concentration and nervous energy and then took part in continuous sittings. It is somewhat similar to a person who has never been used to long-distance running, suddenly after a hard day's work deciding to run ten or twelve miles. It would only be natural that their physical being would feel severe, if not dangerous, strain. This is not a note of warning against the dangers of spiritualism from a physiological standpoint, but it is a warning for those people who are nervously unsuited to act carefully. It is a peculiar fact that the majority of persons who have psychic power are of a

very highly-strung nervous order. The ideal combination for such investigation is a highly-strung nervous system, a sound body and an excellent mentality. Danger occurs when one allows oneself to be carried away by any result that is obtained ; but to the sound, the reasonable, and the practical type of mentality, there can be no such danger, as they would realise the foolishness of draining their nervous vitality in the same way that they would realise the danger of overwork.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE LINE OF HEALTH

THIS is in reality a line of corroboration, and in the delineation of health is of the same value as the junction of head and life lines in the consideration of character. This line is the thermometer of health—that delicate needle on the face of the gauge, and is subject to more change than any other line. I have seen it grow, and I have seen it fade entirely away in the matter of two or three months. Often you will find that it is far more broken and weak looking in the left than in the right hand. This of course is an excellent sign. Again you may in certain hands look for any signs of the line

of health in vain. That type of hand in which this line is unmarked is generally the short, robust, materialistic type, where the flow of animal vitality is strong. There is a preponderance of physical strength, but this of course does not insure the subject from disease ; it only indicates that their power of actual resistance to bacterial infection is rather lower than of that type where the line of health is marked : and when you consider the reasons for this you will have to agree that this is truth. The very existence of this line indicates some weakness of the physical body. As I have before stated, the human machine is so beautifully attuned that weaknesses are to some extent made up for in additional nerve force—a subconscious will-power. Hence, a person whose health is not good—that is, they have been delicate from childhood—would, as they grew up, naturally develop a certain resistance to disease. Is disease to prove stronger than the natural resistance of the body?

That is the problem which the scientific palmist has to solve.

Again, you may find on certain hands that the line of health may be marked only for a length of half an inch or three quarters—a period of anything from five to twenty-five years. Where such marking is found, the logical conclusion is that from the commencement to the end of this short line is indicated a period of weakness. It may commence just below the heart line, which would be approximately twenty years of age, and end just below the head line ; this would be approximately thirty years of age ; thus you have a ten years period when there exists some weakness which, as the subject grows older, will die out.

The line of health only indicating actual danger at that point where it cuts the line of life : this will be easy to detect. The only position of the line of health is from beneath the base of the little finger or the mount of Mercury running down the hand towards

the line of life by the wrist, forming an inverted triangle with the head line as the base. The natural position of this line is shown in Illustration 2.

It must be remembered that the line of health is a line of corroboration. The data given by the finger nails and the actual lines of the hand for the estimation of nerve force, when taken in conjunction with that information given by this line, will give you a very clear insight into existing health conditions.

Some palmists consider that when the line of health is reddish in colour, with minute spots or points existing actually in it, that there exists a predisposition towards diseases of a feverish nature. I have yet to see the hand where the line of health alone is reddish in colour. Where the whole of the lines of the hand, especially the heart or cardiac line, is red, then there is, I agree, a predisposition for diseases of a feverish nature, as the blood pressure is rather high, and such persons easily run a temperature.

Where the blood flow is quick, bacterial toxins would naturally be spread more rapidly than where the heart's action is normal or even weak, and such persons very quickly succumb to delirium.

It must be therefore laid down as a rule that the line of health alone does not indicate any particular disease, but it affords, as the student will see, invaluable data.

CHAPTER XIX

ANÆMIA

IN the diagnosis of disease by means of a study of the human hand I have been astounded at the prevalence of this insidious disease. Not only does it interfere with the physical well-being of the subject, but actually with their mentality and their success in life. I have seen quite a number of brilliant hands rendered useless or commonplace by the neglect in early years of this so-called childish complaint. Of course it is more prevalent in females than males, especially between the years of 14 and 22; but in quite a number of cases I have seen it marked as early as 5 or 6 years of age, and the effects

have not been overcome until nearly 30 years after.

Anæmia is so often the ally of disease. It prevents the retaliation of the defending armies. The ranks of the defenders are thin. There are no reserve battalions and the invading germs have only to make a strong hold in one corner of the body and by the passing of time they will grow and out-number the defenders. The existence of this disease is generally indicated normally by a lack of concentration. The subject is unable to make any sustained and continuous effort in any one direction, and this is shown at the junction of the lines of life and head. These two lines would be islanded, that is, they are not one clear line, but made up of a series of small islands, and as the disease is gradually overcome the blood becomes stronger and purer, so these lines become smaller and less in number. Corroborative data is found in the finger nails, which are pale in colour and showing no

moons ; but even should there be moons and a fair colour in the nail, with such a marking along the line of head and life, there is a poorness of blood existing, and the subjects lack of concentration is due to this. You will notice how easy it is to trace the ending of anæmia. The lines may cease on the line of life at 16 or 17 years of age, but on the line of head, continue until 25 years of age. The actual anæmic condition would cease at 17 years of age, but the effects would be felt until 25 years of age. During the earlier years of its existence, when it was at its height, the brain lacked that nourishment which it should have received and there would exist some years of cerebral instability while the brain was adjusting its mechanism. Years of starvation require years of plentiful feeding to overcome and eradicate the effects of the lean years.

It is only after having seen many hundreds of hands that I began to realise the seriousness of anæmia. The scope of its ravages,

the dire effects and results that it has ; and I bring to the notice of students the important fact that all this can be obviated by an early and scientific examination of a child's hand. Again we have as an explanation the logical conclusions of a subconscious mind or the natural flow of events given us in that gauge which is the human hand.

GENERAL WEAKNESS

Coupled with anæmia there is often found a line which runs down inside the line of life. This is the line of resistance, and by its length, depth and general appearance it gives very accurate information as to the amount of resistance the subject has to actual disease and is generally found marked in the same hand as the line of health. Its position and general appearance is given in Illustration 6. Where this line exists and there is that chained formation at the junction of the two main lines denoting an

I have seen where the line of resistance is marked only for a period of approximately ten years and then has died away. During those ten years the person, though not robust, would have never suffered any serious illness, but at the expiration of the line of resistance begins a period of defencelessness. Wherever this line is found in a hand and there are no signs of any deep-seated disease, then that person would not readily succumb to bacterial infection. By its existence it indicates weakness and strength. This is true. In a physically weak and a feeble constitution the vital force would be high. This line is rarely found in the robust types that I mentioned when dealing with the line of health, but in the same way by its non-existence it indicates that the subject would more readily succumb to infection. It is an old saying but very true that "the creaking door hangs longest."

CHAPTER XX

CONSUMPTION

THE more one examines and considers the indications afforded by the human hand of predispositions and weaknesses for varying types of diseases, the more forcibly it is brought home to one how much is preventable. In a great number of cases of consumption an early examination of the hand would entirely obviate its development.

I have mentioned in the previous part of this book how careful students should be of stating the existence of actual disease, especially in the case of the more "nervy" type of subject. This was recently proved in the case of a lady whose hand I was asked

to examine. She was supposed to be suffering from consumption. The lines of the hand told me at once that she was of an emotional and highly-strung type, but the imprint revealed no sign of actual disease. True the chest was certainly weak, but it was more a bronchial indication than actual lung trouble, and after carefully considering both the imprint and the subjects' fingernails, I arrived at the conclusion that there was no sign of active disease, greatly to her and to her sister's astonishment. I informed them that there was poorness of blood, which would of course create a certain debility, and also that the chest was not particularly strong, but the chief point and fundamental cause of ill-health was heart trouble, and I advised a consultation with a specialist. My advice was not taken for some little time, and as the symptoms of consumption continued, and there were no signs of improvement, she visited an eminent authority who informed her that she was not consumptive,

but there existed a general debility, and that the serious part of ill-health was caused by heart disease. My theory with regard to this case is this : a restrained, emotional type of subject and highly strung ; through faith in the first verdict she had unconsciously stimulated symptoms of disease, which as time passed became stronger. It is within the bounds of possibility that had she not had other advice it would have ended in actual disease ; it was, in a nutshell, a species of auto-suggestion. I have found in several cases that this particular neurasthenic type of hand is very open to such mental suggestions. I greatly astonished a subject some little while ago by stating that her father had died of consumption. This was in no way, as you will see, miraculous. It was not wizardry. There was marked in the left hand, which is the hand wherein all those traits with which we are born are marked, a very strong predisposition towards consumption. There were no signs, at that time, of

its actual development in the right hand, but—and this is an important point—the line of resistance to disease had commenced to lengthen, and I warned her that with proper care all chances of the development of this predisposition could be obviated, but that if she persisted in neglecting the very frequent chest colds with which she was troubled and the anæmic condition which already existed, then there could be but one ending—actual disease.

The typical consumptive mark which is found on the line of health is illustrated in Drawing No. 6c. This must not be confused with the mark “D,” which is narrower and smaller. A predisposition for consumption is shown by filbert nails and long and waisted fingers—that is, the joints showing rather prominently and the flesh on the phalanges between consequently forming a concave curve—but unless there is marked a long island, rather broad, on the line of health, as in Illustration No. 6, actual

disease has not developed. In all readings I have impressed upon you the importance of having corroboration. A corroborative point in a reading of consumption would be the development of that line of resistance to disease on the inside of the life. This would be long and rather deep. The line of life would be made up of a series of small islands and the intersersion of the life line, marked between them, would be in places thick and thin. The whole line would have an uneven appearance when closely examined. This, of course, would indicate the rise and fall of vitality, periods of health and recurring periods of illness ; the line of life always indicating the flow and ebb of the tide of disease, and at that point where the line of health crosses the hand and touches the line of life, death may be anticipated, unless the line is broken in both hands before this occurs. That peculiar mark, the Break, which is very easy to distinguish, is illustrated in Drawing No. 7. A further point of

corroboration very often seen is that anæmic tendency, a mental unstability is indicated by the line of head and life at the junction being islanded.

In the estimation of the prevention of diseases of the chest, I claim that scientific palmistry is invaluable. Can medical authority, with any degree of certainty, say at the present time the chances of the development of such weaknesses? I maintain that by an examination of the hand these chest weaknesses can be detected and prevented years before there is any actual sign of bacterial activity.

BRONCHITIS

I would warn the student to be particularly careful not to confuse the mark which indicates consumption with that which merely indicates some bronchial affection. There may be every sign in the left hand of a predisposition towards actual consump-

tion, but in the right, through the line of resistance having developed, it has been restricted to merely a weakness. It would then be shown as a small island, illustrated in No. 6D, which may be high or low on the line of health. The position of course would give you the probable dates. This same shaped mark indicating a bronchial affection, coupled with nails indicating some weakness of the heart, indicates more the asthmatical tendency. Where this line is short but broad, then there exists at that date actual bronchitis.

It is a peculiar thing that the majority of consumptives have thoughtful fingers, long and wasted, and in my study of the human hand I have formed the theory that there exists some connection between mentality and disease: that there must be some mental outlook or trait of mentality common to all suffering from one particular kind of disease. In the case of rheumatoid arthritis the majority of these people are emotional,

possessing a neurasthenic type of nervous system and the mount of Saturn is highly developed, indicating a certain morbid mental quality. We know for a fact that the continual brooding in the case of persons of a neurotic type on certain complaints will in the course of time actually stimulate counterfeit symptoms of that disease which gradually cease to be counterfeit and become realities. If this is so of extreme cases, is it not possible in a somewhat lesser way for certain types of mentality to develop or attract, through mental attitude, certain types of diseases? Even if this theory is true, it is a most difficult thing to alter an adult person's mode of thought. The majority of people at 25 have already laid the fundamental foundations of thought, and in these days they seem to travel in one set mental road, never bothering to bestir mental activity unnecessarily. But the use of this knowledge can be of assistance in the advising of parents as to the training of

children. For instance, you may see marked in the hand of a child of five or six years of age a tendency to develop the more morbid and melancholy aspect of their mentality, through the mount of Saturn dragging the apex of the mount of Apollo towards it, and in the up-bringing of such a child it would be necessary to obviate anything that would tend to foster or excite this latent trait.

CHAPTER XXI

THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM AND THE HAND

IT is a peculiar fact that there may be a host of ordinary complaints or symptoms having their origin in one deep-seated source. This is true of digestive and dental trouble, for in nine cases out of ten, where there exists a gastric condition of the stomach, there are also signs marked in the hand of dental trouble. Beyond the fact that dental trouble is marked, you need worry no further, as it is a most difficult thing indeed to time the height of its development.

Ordinary digestive trouble, that is indigestion, is marked on the line of health, which is in small pieces instead of one long, clear line. They are pieces of not quite a

quarter of an inch in length and the end of one line is overshadowed by the commencement of another, the small break which divides them being minute. They are like slates of a roof, one laid over the other, but not actually touching, and the duration of this formation indicates the duration of the digestive trouble. This is a formation common to nearly any type of hand.

The more serious aspect of digestive trouble is of course a gastric condition of the stomach. With such a condition, grave illnesses may arise from it if not detected and prevented. In a case of a hand, the imprint of which I have recently taken, I warned the subject against gastric trouble. At that time there was no sign of any sort of digestive disturbance, but now I hear this person has been suffering from some slight indigestion and I am certain that unless my advice to consult medical authority is taken, some serious trouble will in a few years' time result.

The gastric trouble is generally found on the more highly-strung type of hand ; though this is by no means a hard and fast rule, it is generally so ; there is a connection between this highly-strung nervous system and the stomach. The nerves of the stomach seem unable to function, and in some peculiar way form minute nerve lines on the palmer surface, affording evidence of the real cause of ill-health. Gastric trouble is indicated by these minute nerve lines as illustrated in Drawing No. 6F. They lay close to the line of health. In fact, it is very difficult in some hands to tell where exactly the line of health is, through the mass of fine nerve lines of gastric origin. Should they spread far into the hand, it is more serious than where they are just lightly marked down the line. The seriousness or otherwise of this affliction is indicated by the number, the depth and the breadth of the whole of these minute lines. Many of them you will observe in the imprint form are

minute islands or circles, and where this is the case there is a strong tendency towards an ulcerous condition of the stomach.

Coupled with these minute indications you will often find a number of perpendicular lines standing at the beginning of the line of health, above the line of heart, but they are more the form of a Grille, being longer and deeper than actual nerve lines. These are the lines that indicate dental trouble.

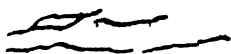
CHAPTER XXII

EPILEPSY AND INSANITY

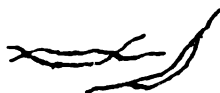
“THE sins of the fathers shall be visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation.” The study of the human hand throws an interesting light upon the profundity of this wisdom. It is very difficult to reconcile the penalty of a father’s wrongdoing being paid for by his children. Epilepsy is one of the diseases that is inherited most strongly as a predisposition ; if not even as actual disease, and it is so marked in the hand that you will be able to tell how far back existed the original case. In the third and fourth generation the minute mark which indicates this inherited predisposition becomes smaller

and smaller, ceasing to exist in the fifth. The study of mentality is greatly assisted by a consideration of the hand.

In the consideration of any form of mental disturbance, the student must remember those traits of character shown broadly in the shape of the hand and that data which is given by the thumb. In the case of the lines of heart and head running together and forming one straight line across the hand, there is indicated a remarkable ability to concentrate—a terrible determination, which on a good hand can be of remarkable assistance to the subject, but on a bad hand, often proves their undoing. This formation of the lines on the long, thoughtful hand, with existing evil qualities, if the object of ambition was to be only obtained by the committal of crime, that crime would be one of premeditation and thought. But on a short, squat, brutal type of hand, the same determination would exist, the same desire to gain the object of one's desires, as desire



Breaks.



Islands..



Nerve Lines



Points



Nerve Lines from a main Line.

N^o.7.

would be mixed with ambition in such a hand ; then the crime, if crime were needed, would be premeditated with cunning and executed with brutality. In the estimation of the varying degrees of mental stability or instability, the student must take into consideration the type of hand and the type of nerve lines. The line of mentality may curve down towards the wrist, ending on the mount of Luna. This formation on a hand of an emotional type, the lines deep and broad coupled with an impulsive thumb, the person would certainly be unstable ; there is clearly indicated a strong suicidal tendency, especially if there exists that small cross beneath the line of head, indicating self-deception, the unwillingness to look facts in the face if those facts be unpleasant, and the mount of Saturn highly developed. This is quite logical. In the first place you have a highly-developed imagination, so highly developed that it can be safely called abnormal ; you then have impulse and self-

deception, a moral coward and a lack of determination ; you then have the mount of Saturn highly developed ; this tinges the whole with morbidity, melancholy, and accentuates the emotions and throws a depressing influence over the whole mentality ; and lastly you have impulse shown by a supple thumb, and in such a hand it is quite easy to see that under certain circumstances this person would commit the crime of self-destruction, and would in no way be responsible. I agree with the theory voiced by an eminent medical authority, who is a specialist on the various forms of insanity, that certain of these forms are in reality "possession." It is mentioned in Holy Writ that persons were possessed of the devil. It is within the bounds of possibility that even in these modern times there can be cases of "possession." The human frame is in no way altered to render this without the bounds of possibility. In fact, the nervous system of the modern human

may be of a finer and higher order than that of the ancient Hebrews, which would, of course, render this possibility more feasible. I have already related my theory with regard to the nervous system and spiritualistic manifestations. Carry this idea a little farther and take away from the personality of the subject a stable mentality, and it is quite easy to see that, given the right quantity of nerve force and system, the possession of the being by disincarnate entities would be comparatively easy. I certainly agree with this authority, judging from the data gathered from certain types of hands which I have seen. One case is brought at the present moment to my mind. A person whose thumb was supple, denoting impulse, the line of mentality on the palmer surface was very much islanded and bent down almost to the wrist ; coupled with this there was a very highly-strung nervous system, and in the space existing between the line of head and heart was clearly marked that

peculiar cross formation indicating the possession of psychic power. This person was in reality an unconscious medium. It was no fault of hers. She was termed "a little bit funny" by friends and relatives, but from these points afforded by her hand I am of opinion that it was clearly a case of "possession," and it would not surprise me to hear of her suicide at any time.

(A very curving line of mentality on a materialistic, squat hand always indicates some peculiarity of mentality, and should this line have a tendency to form an island towards its end, then there certainly is existing insanity. This island may be only marked on the left hand and it must be with great care and discretion that your reading is given. The line of mentality which has a number of indentations marked throughout its length, always indicates in the reading of character a tendency for the person to worry in "spasms" and over trifles. Especially is this accentuated by long fingers, which give

natural thought ; but should the lines of the hand be reddish in colour, indicating the existence of a high blood pressure, and from the line of mentality there are seen to droop a number of lines which might in the actual hand be taken for the ridges of the skin surface, but which in the imprint are clearly definable as minute hair lines—as illustrated in No. 7 as nerve lines—then would the person be subject to fits of temper, especially if the mentality is curving, which gives a lack of control or determination. This curved formation of the line would accentuate this condition to such an extent that there would be danger in a full-blooded person of the rupture of a blood vessel during a paroxysm of anger.

These hair lines from the line of mentality always indicate a state of mental activity, and on a hand where the lines are pale in colour, that is a normal hand so far as conditions affecting the system of circulation are concerned, even with the thumb

straight and firm, renders the mentality unstable—liable to spasmodic and impulsive actions. The detection of insanity is the estimation of mental stability and determination combined with a deep consideration of character. The diseased condition of the brain is always indicated in the line of mentality by the existence of small islands, upon their size depending the extent of the mental disturbance, and in connection with these tell-tale marks the student must always consider the shape and length of the thumb. Congenital idiots possess a thumb which is short, generally thick and ill-formed, denoting an entire absence of independent will-power ; their thumbs lie close and cramped to the hand. In this connection it is a peculiar fact that new-born children, when closing the hand always fold the thumb on the inner side of the fingers ; and in the same manner a person who is dying closes the hand in the same way with the thumb folded inside. Last year I was asked to

examine some wax gloves and the plaster casts made from them of spirit hands, which are in the possession of the British College of Psychical Science. The hand that was of chief interest to me was that supposed to be of an anthropoid. From my point of view these hands were extremely interesting, and the one point of significance which I noted was that in all cases the thumb was on the palmer surface or bent with the fingers closed over it, such as would be the case at the moment of death. As soon as intelligence begins to dawn, the power of independent thought, the new-born child closes its hand in a normal manner.

Montessoire, in *Pedagogical Anthropology*, says that, "uniformity of design in the finger tips indicates arrested mental development"; but a more certain way of detecting such arrested development is by an examination of the line of mentality itself. Where this line is short, and full of small islands at its beginning which increase in size, the brain

disease indicated develops. This of course must be marked in the right hand. All these markings may be in the left, but the right hand may show considerable improvement.

Some time ago I was asked to take the imprint of the hands of a little girl of eight years of age. This child had been suffering from recurring fits of an epileptic character, gradually becoming stronger, more violent and exhausting. It was evident that unless something was done to arrest them she could not live for very long. The parents had spent a great deal of money in taking her to various authorities and they all stated that the case was hopeless, that it was epilepsy in an incurable form. Owing to her nervous condition I experienced a little difficulty at first in obtaining these imprints, but after a deal of persuasion I was able to obtain two very excellent sets. These I at once examined and found that there had been no mental development until six years of age ;

by that I mean the brain had functioned automatically. There was no independent or progressive thought. There were no signs of actual epilepsy such as one would have expected to find in a case of this kind, but the line of mentality beginning at six years of age was very much broken—made up of minute islands, the whole of the hand being a mass of very fine nerve lines. I could find no sign of actual danger resulting from these fits for some years to come, and even then there was only a possibility which, if proper measures were taken, could be prevented. The whole nervous system and the mechanism of the brain itself were so highly attuned that the least thing would cause intense excitement, this abnormal activity causing confusion and convulsions of the physical body. I informed the father that, in my opinion, there was every hope that if the child could be kept alive until fourteen years of age there would be a marked change, but she would never be a normal

person and would always be subject to convulsive fits of anger ; therein lay grave danger. Of course it was beyond my sphere to give any advice as to actual medical treatment. I could only advise some change being made and a very eminent specialist being consulted. This was done, with the result that to-day the child is practically normal, except that she is very easily excited. But this improvement bears out my original diagnosis, as when the imprints were taken the child was unable to speak, paralysis having affected the vocal organs. She could only make a weird, animalish noise ; now she is able to speak quite clearly and enjoy playing in a normal way with her brothers and sisters.

I have found epilepsy to be marked as a long, sloping line of head, which is very much broken and islanded ; underlying it is a large island as shown in Illustration No. 6G, the smaller island indicating only a predisposition for some form of nervous

trouble. In detecting inherited predispositions for this disease, accuracy can be obtained by carefully gauging the size of the island underlying the line of mentality. Where this island is very small and the line of mentality is good, the predisposition is so weak that it is not even worth considering ; but you would be safe in saying that there had been someone in the subject's family who, before death, showed signs of paralysis of either limb or speech, or suffered from some seizure. Where this mark exists in the hand with the *Via Lasciva* also marked, as in Illustration No. 3c, in both the left and the right hand there is a predisposition for alcoholic stimulation ; and the original cause of the disease in the first case would be alcoholic and sexual excess.

CHAPTER XXIII

DISEASES INDICATED BY THE CARDIAC LINE

THE line of heart gives valuable information for the consideration of both aspects of the hand, character and health. It is a peculiar thing that the indication of “nervy” action of the heart is also the indication of a flirtatious disposition. This may be caused by the action of the heart being quick and the consequent pressure of blood rather high, making for an easily excitable person. It is very disturbing to find that there are so many people suffering from some heart disorder. It may be that the increase in cases of heart disease is due to the development of our nervous systems—our mode of

living ; the rate at which we travel through this short span, trying vainly to cram it with every emotion, every sensation that is pleasurable, must have a very adverse effect upon that mechanism which interprets all these things for us. In more cases than I care to think of I have had to advise the careful use of tobacco by women. Their more finely-attuned nervous systems seem more easily affected by nicotine. Excessive cigarette smoking is most harmful and it cannot be too strongly remarked upon.

In nearly all "nervy" hands you will find on the heart line minute nerve lines dropping from it. This indicates nervous action—just a "jumpy" sort of heart ; but where these nerve lines actually drop through it and are very fine, as in Illustration No. 61, then the nervous action of the heart is accentuated. A heart line marked thus, with actual islands growing larger as you proceed along the line, indicates actual disease of the heart. With these islands easily

definable it is valvular disease. With this formation of the line, any break in it indicates death through heart failure or a heart attack at that date, but it must, of course, be marked in both hands.

In a great number of hands where there exists a neurasthenic type of nervous system, coupled with a marked functional disorder of the kidneys, you will find marked in the line of heart minute points or dots, as shown in Illustration No. 7. These are so fine that you can only see them in the imprint form, but they indicate a form of neuralgia which affects the nerves controlling the heart's action. I shall refer to this marking again.

CHAPTER XXIV

MINOR OBSERVATIONS

A FUNCTIONAL disorder of the kidneys is marked at the edge of the hand just below the line of heart by minute perpendicular nerve lines. These are illustrated in No. 3D, and should they run far into the palmer surface of the hand, just over the line of health, then there is actual kidney disease existing. Where these lines are minute and are marked lower down on the edge of the hand towards the wrist, there is more bladder trouble than renal.

Where the flesh at the base of the finger-nails is reddish in colour and slightly polished in appearance, there is an inherited

predisposition for rheumatism, and if the lines indicating some kidney disorder are faintly marked, the probability is that this complaint will develop.

There is a connection between quite a number of health conditions and these nerve lines found below the line of heart under the little finger. In the case of a neurasthenic type of hand with kidney disorder marked and no rheumatism indicated at the base of the finger nails, the probability is that neurasthenia will ultimately develop. The reason for my saying this is that these lines always indicate that a certain small percentage of poisonous matter is leaking into the system. The kidneys are not functioning as perfect filters, and these poisons irritate and inflame this particular type of nervous system.

Another formation commonly found in connection with these "kidney lines" are minute spots or points along the line of head and the line of heart, or both. The

reading of this is that the functional disorder is the seat of the trouble and the symptoms are far removed from it ; pain of a spasmodic character felt in the region of the heart or neuralgic pains in the head, where these points are along the line of mentality, the cause being the same as in the case of neurasthenia ; only here those nerves which are affected are the nerves of the head or heart.

That dread disease, angina pectoris, is marked by the line of heart having minute dots actually in it and islands increasing in size until there is a distinct break, which indicates the year of death.

I have observed that very often a subject may suffer from varying trifling complaints, the symptoms of which in no way point by an ordinary method of diagnosis to the actual cause. I do not for one moment claim that a consultation of the hand entirely does away with ordinary methods of ascertaining disease, but it can be of invaluable assistance,

especially in cases of obscure nervous disorders where there is a complication of symptoms. A neurasthenic patient may show signs of heart trouble, and it is possible that this is subsidiary to, or the outcome of, a functional kidney disorder, which through the nerves would directly affect the heart's action.

In the case which I mention in my introduction of the subject who died from heart disease, though she was suffering from indigestion in a chronic form and asthma, the fundamental cause of all ill-health was this neurasthenic type of nervous system, and I go so far as to say that had her hand been scientifically surveyed when she was twenty-five years of age, and the advice which would have been given taken notice of, the development of this cardiac trouble could have been obviated.

Whilst writing this chapter I was asked to take the imprints of a gentleman who, though not actually ill, had been for some

time feeling far from well. Symptoms were ill-defined and pointed to nothing in particular. In fact, there might have been about fifty diseases which were the cause, but the imprint revealed no organic trouble beyond slight functional disorder of the kidneys. The type of nerve system was emotional. His character showed him to be a man who repressed all the natural indications of joy or sorrow, though he felt and enjoyed them to the full. Coupled with this was the fact that he was extremely energetic and would be inclined to use more vitality than he could dispense with. I told him that there was nothing organically wrong so far as I was able to see, but that he was suffering from years of overwork, and in reality his nervous system was nearing exhaustion. The best cure would be a month's holiday in a sunny clime, when the batteries of the body could quietly recharge themselves with vital power.

In the estimations of all diseased conditions the data given by the finger-nails must

not be neglected. It is a point of considerable interest and one which reveals an important detail. Where the thumb or finger-nails have a ridge in their surface—I am not referring to the perpendicular “rib” formation for the nails, but a horizontal dent—this indicates that the subject has, within the last two or three months, undergone a period of mental and nervous strain. Should this ridge be accompanied by white or natural spots in the nails, the nervous system is nearing exhaustion.

In the consideration of the health of women, the first bracelet of the wrist is one of the chief points to observe. This has no significance in my opinion to character, but where it rises in an arched formation towards the wrist, there is an inherited or natural weakness of the internal organs, generally the organs of reproduction. If at the same time there are a number of fine nerve lines marked on the mount of Luna, somewhat in the form of a grille, this indicates the existence of

actual disease of the uterus ; and should these lines run somewhat higher on to Luna and persist in a minor way half way up the edge of the hand in a perpendicular position, it is an indication that the ovaries are also involved. A point of corroboration would be the signs of general debility, and in the majority of such hands the mounts are well developed.

Eye strain is marked in the hand by a small island either directly under Apollo or just towards the mount of Mercury upon the line of heart ; where this island is fretted by a number of minute nerve lines it is the nervous system that is responsible.

The student, in studying the diagnosis of disease by means of an examination of the hand, must apply those methods of logic and reason in the same way that he would in the delineation of character. Of course some little knowledge of the physiology of the human body is of great assistance. It

assists reasoning, and the insight which these minute marks of the hand give.

With regard to the ability to prophesy the death of a subject, it must never be attempted unless clearly marked in both hands and on either of the three main lines—life, head or heart. Should there be a break in the line of life, it is for the student to find by means of a contemplation of the other lines marked, the probable cause of this threatened extinction.

Where the actual hand is pale hued or yellowish in colour, cold and clammy to the touch, with these dental lines marked on the face of the mount of Mercury, you have indications of liver complaints, a form of chronic biliousness. These hands you will often find have the mount of Saturn highly developed and are somewhat liable to fits of morbidity.

CHAPTER XXV

CONCLUSION

IN THE comparative study of hands I have acquired the imprints of the hands of some of our famous men and women engaged in varying spheres of activity.

You will observe in the hand of Professor Sir Arthur Keith the remarkable number and fineness of the lines, the long, thoughtful fingers and the line of mentality supporting them ; this data revealing great intelligence and thought, coupled with the fact that the thumb stands out from the hand, giving independence ; hence, courage to stand by the opinion and calculations of the mind.

The hand of Sir Oliver Lodge is an excellent example of the scientific hand. The

lines being clear and the line of mentality well placed and practical, the shape of the hand at its outer edge indicating mental activity, the curve being high.

The point of interest to the student in the hand of Major Sir William Orpen, R.A., is the development of the mount of Luna ; this edge of the hand indicating creative artistic instinct, coupled with an artistic imagination. The little finger being long at the same time, shows great talent for literature. The spatulate third finger indicates activity.

You will observe in the imprint of Miss Sybil Thorndike's hand the fundamental secret of her success in dramatic art. The lines are deep and clearly marked, at the same time they possess a certain breadth. This indicates the ability to feel all emotions keenly. Such marking proves the fact that "acting" is descriptively wrong. It is more accurately described in the word "live." The joys or sorrows of the

characters portrayed by Miss Thorndike would be by the power of her emotionalism transmuted into real and living things.

The hand of Sir John Lavery, R.A., shows both the practical and the imaginative, the fingers being practical, the head line imaginative, and the outside edge of the palm from the base of the little finger down to the mount of Luna, by its curve denoting artistic conception.

The student will note in the imprint of the hand of H. Dennis Bradley, Esq., the thoughtful fingers, which at the same time are quick and shrewd, and the evenly-balanced mentality. The lines on this hand indicate that nervous system ideally suited for psychic experiments; but you will observe that the nerve lines tend to affect the heart's action, the cardiac line showing a nervy heart.

The hand of Major Edward Ferris is extremely long throughout its entire length, the fingers being decidedly thoughtful. The

lines of the hand are extremely fine, and that indication of the open junction of the head and life lines is to a great extent bound and restricted by logic and reason, indicated in the fingers. This type of hand belongs to the philosopher.

The hand of Madame Galli-Curci shows an artistic mind and a personality which is affectionate and idealistic. An excellent and well-balanced hand.

This is the age of materialism, but despite mechanical progression, we are aware of a spiritual movement. Man has swept the universe and found nothing to satisfy the mind of enquiry. At last we are beginning to explore the unknown source of all things—the soul. We are wise in so far as we realise our profound ignorance. This is the first, the elementary step towards understanding. We at last realise the importance of ourselves—very egotistical, but nevertheless, true.

Take from us those elusive and unknown powers with which we are invested, there is

left an animal, an anthropoid. Reason alone has not lifted us from the beast level, but some inner power—some Divine consciousness. If man is in reality such a wonderful thing, then surely some good must come from a study of his make-up.

To the man in the street, the human is marriage of mind and body. Thus far the body has received undue attention, for I am convinced that the hiding place of many mysteries is within the mind or spiritual part of us. We are ill with an illness that is elusive and ill-defined, but distressing and dangerous to our worldly existence. The body is examined and probed, drugged and mutilated, it ceases to exist—the cause still undiscovered. We know that certain types of people can so think of themselves as to create an unhealthy state, let this be continued and actual disease is the result. If this is true of the creation of an unhealthy state, the reverse way of thinking must be true of acquiring health.

I do not claim that Scientific Palmistry supersedes the more ordinary methods of diagnosis, but it is of such value that it cannot be neglected nor disregarded.

With these facts relating to character and health before you, by means of concentration, close study and actual practice you will, I feel sure, agree that there is a future for scientific palmistry. That it can be of the greatest value in everyday life, to the medical practitioner and perhaps later to the legal profession. It must be remembered old prejudices and superstitions die very hard. It has been my aim in writing this book to eliminate everything that is of a superstitious nature, that has no reasonable or logical foundation for the construction which I have placed upon it. This has not been hastily compiled, but has involved much time in the comparative study of imprints of both healthy and diseased persons.

NOEL JAQUIN

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